

SHOOT!

EXTRA SPECIAL 1981

50p



Ipswich's Russell Osman (blue shirt) in a tussle for possession with Mickey Thomas of Manchester United.

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ANOTHER EXTRA SPECIAL FROM SHOOT

FALLING gates... hooliganism... players sent-off... managers sacked... clubs taken over after boardroom battles. Gloom... doom and despondency.

True there are still many problems affecting the game, but let's not forget there has been an awful lot to cheer this season.

The exciting Championship challenge of Aston Villa and Ipswich Town... the revival of Everton... the amazing comeback of Manchester City under John Bond.

West Ham are still attracting the crowds as they pull even further away at the top of the Second Division. But there's also the surge of Notts County, Swansea, Chelsea, Charlton, Southend, Barnsley and Lincoln City.

Kevin Keegan, Kenny Dalglish and Paul Mariner are very much stars of the 70's and thankfully will be around for many seasons yet.

But with the exciting potential of Gary Shaw, Justin Fashanu, Peter Bodak, Steve Archibald, Steve Moran, Steve Foster, Alan Devonshire, Paul Walsh and Brian McDermott, the 80's promises to be even richer in talent.

In Scotland Celtic and Rangers are fighting to regain their dominance, while Aberdeen are showing the form which won them the Premier title last season.

All fans North of the border have cheered the sensational recovery of Hibs and rise of Raith Rovers.

SHOOT, too, has been successful in resisting all challenges from rivals to strengthen its position at the top of the soccer magazine League.

You enjoy SHOOT every week. Now relax with this special extra edition which includes something to interest fans of ALL ages.

Happy reading...

Peter Stuhart

EDITOR

HIS YOUNGER DAYS

I was the thickest one in my family as far as schoolwork was concerned. We all went to Martin Grove Infants and Primary. When the others passed for Grammar and Technical College I stayed on at the Secondary Modern. I was a bit of a washout in that respect.

THOSE WHO HAVE HELPED HIM

I played most of my career under Bob Dennison. Then I had a contrast with Alan Brown at Sunderland. I was there only a short while but it was the happiest of my career. Brown was an absolute strict disciplinarian, unbelievably unbending. I also played for

England under Walter Winterbottom, a charming man. I can see how he got the job — he wouldn't offend a fly. He was the essence of charm, the perfect diplomat. I learned good manners from him. He took me to Russia for a game and had to tell me I wouldn't be going to the World Cup. I suppose if you can ever put that sort of thing over in the right way he did it that day. Mind you, he was wrong because I was a better player than the one he took. He was a lad called Derek Kevan and couldn't compare with my ability to put the ball in the net. He was a big strong boy and coaches love big strong boys.

KENNY BURNS

He's an absolute pain. He moans morning, noon and night. He is a natural moaning man. We took his wife with us on one trip and he didn't open his mouth. If it means shutting him up for the rest of the time I shall bring the wives on every trip.

From an
interview with
BOB HARRIS

BRIAN





Peter used to do it and others have underestimated teams I've managed for years — that's why I've won everything. Bob's unbelievable. You know that little smile he has, that pleasant manner? Well, he hates losing worse than I do. I underestimated him, good old dear Bob. He had me sitting on a skip drinking Newcastle Brown Ale when he took over. Come in and have a nice drink, he said. Nice to see you, Brian. They beat us. I haven't sat on that skip since. I've knocked Liverpool out of more competitions than anyone else because I don't underestimate them. Bob's brilliant at his job. Oh he may stutter and stammer at Press conferences, but he's not on edge at his team talks or when he's telling somebody they're going to too many night clubs.

Kenny Burns (left) 'a constant moaner' according to his manager. Liverpool boss Bob Paisley (right).

Brian (facing page) during his early days at Middlesbrough.



CLOUGH

by himself

ON MANAGEMENT

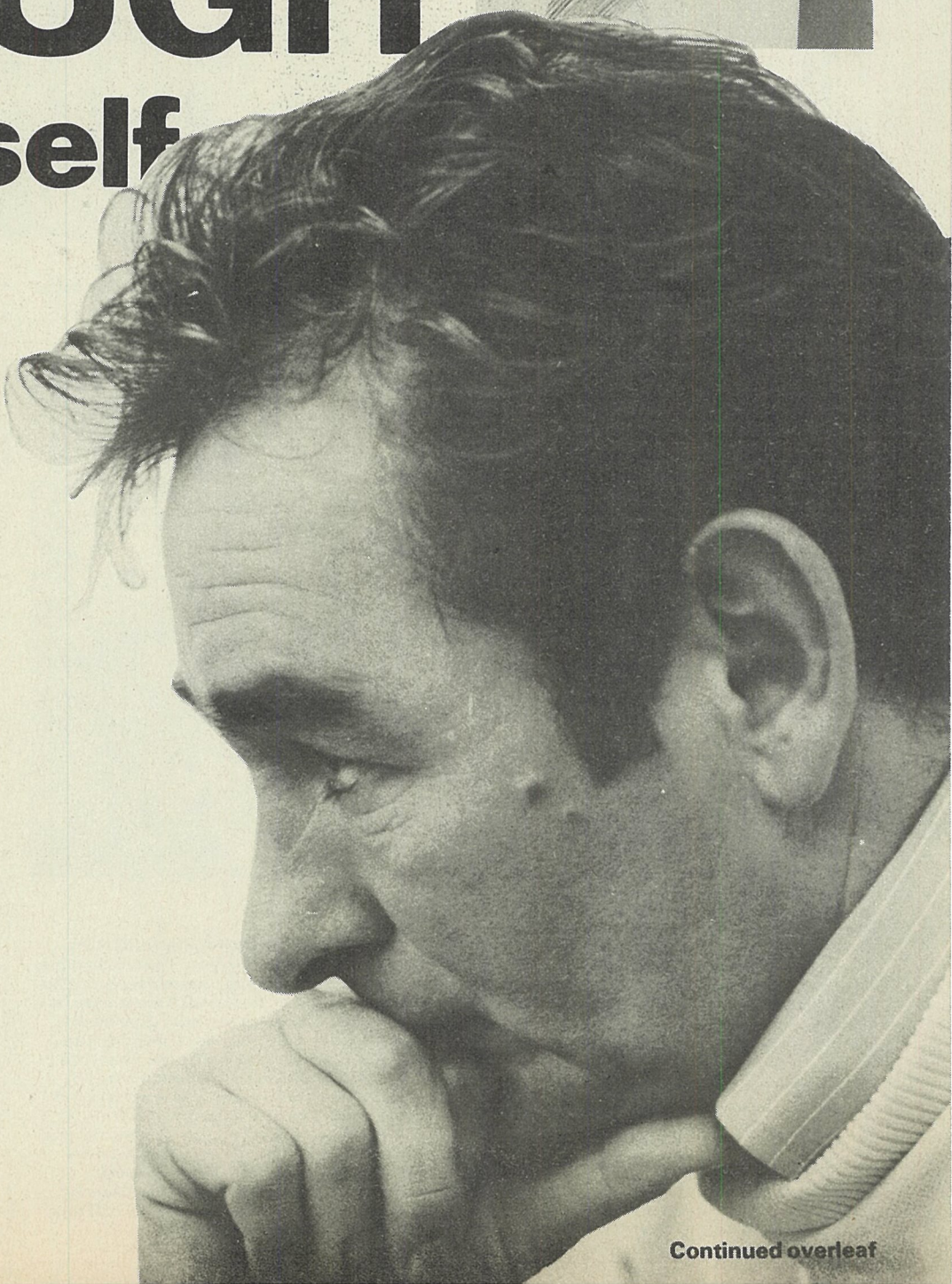
My attitude to management started to form the second I became a player. I came out of the Forces in May and Peter Taylor was transferred from Coventry in the August. As we were two new boys we took up together, started going to matches and watching footballers. That may sound strange, but you'd be amazed how many didn't bother. You'd also be staggered how many didn't even think about football. The sort of discussions we have now would have blinded them 20 years ago. So, as a 20-year-old I was doing things to prepare me for management.

MEMORIES

Every time we lost at Derby, which wasn't very often in six years, we used to have the players in and say: "Gentlemen — stop opening garages, cut out your night-clubbing, boozing and smoking." We closed ranks and were always stronger afterwards. I remember losing 5-0 at Leeds. We had a right old set-to in the dressing-room after the game. Don Revie, who handled the Press well as a club manager before becoming a tool of them as England manager, a very successful man at street level, came out with something about being a bad loser. What a load of garbage. We went on to win the League that season and one of the reasons was because we thrashed things out there and then in our dirty gear. A few seasons later we went back to Leeds and, typical Leeds, they fractured Peter Shilton's jaw-bone and we were beaten 1-0. I was with Peter in hospital until the early hours of the morning. We went on to win the title that year, too. I don't know anyone who's a good loser. When we lost to Wolves in our third successive League Cup Final I said I would rather not come.

BOB PAISLEY

He taught me that one of the biggest crimes in soccer is to underestimate your opponents.



Continued overleaf



OPINIONS

Opinions make the world go round. So the other chap thinks I'm wrong and does it the other way — good luck to him. I've found that in times of weakness or crisis when I've allowed myself to be influenced by others it's been a disaster. The more you listen to people — and they are invariably the wrong kind of person — the more you get off course.

HIS JOB

We don't rule by fear. We're the most democratic club in the country. You have to draw the line somewhere. Ask 16 players what they want for dinner and you finish with 16 different dishes. Fear? Rubbish, absolute rubbish. If you sit around the table with players and ask them what you should do they take management out of your hands, if you allow it. I'm paid to manage and I manage the way I think. I've been accused many times of being too strict, too bombastic or dictatorial, but if that's what you need to run a club then that's how it shall be. You must have enough judgment to get the right players and handle those players. Handling players is a hell of a job, you know; in fact, so is handling a football club. Liverpool have stayed at the top not just because they have good players, but because of the discipline of the club. I used to talk a lot to a man named Harry Storer and he used to say players had no brains at all. No ideas about football, no idea about anything, all they had to do was listen. You know what? He wasn't far wrong... but we've progressed a wee bit now.

HIS FUTURE

Forest will be my last job in management. Right now I have no plans to move anywhere else. I have another two years of my contract

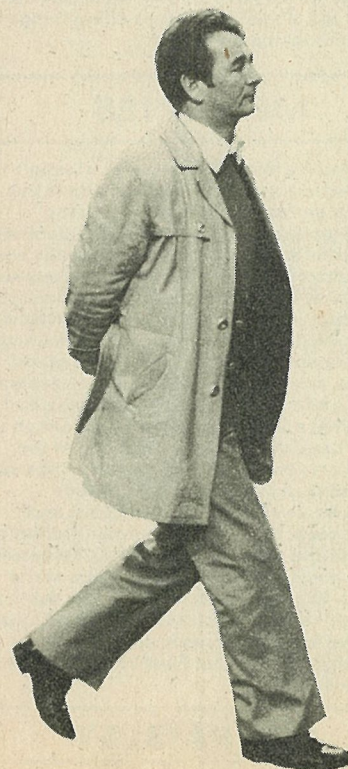
Success at last for Nottingham Forest (above) as Brian helps parade the League Championship trophy (centre) and the League Cup (left) in 1978. Captain John McGovern with the League Championship trophy (below).

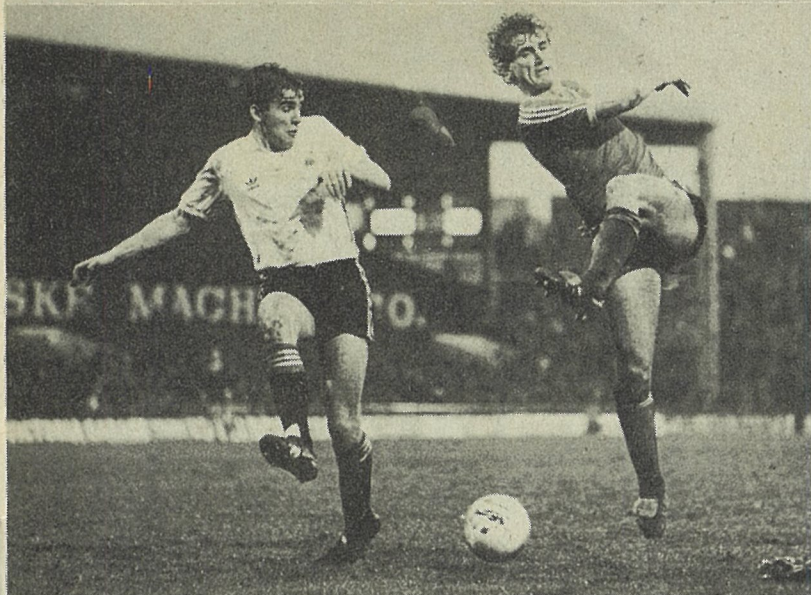


to run. Politics? I wrote to Stretford telling them I wouldn't be standing. The moment has gone. Ten or so years ago I was a fanatic who wanted to change the world. Now it's too late. I don't have many regrets, but I would have loved to have managed one of the big clubs. Can you imagine what we'd have done at, say, Old Trafford? I wanted the Sunderland job badly. When they offered it to me it was too late. You take certain risks when you are 30, 35 or going on 40. When you've consolidated, when you've built what we've built, when you've achieved what we've achieved it becomes harder to start again. I've done it twice. People might think it just rolls off you, but I won't take it a third time.

HIS AMBITIONS

I want to win the League Championship again. Winning titles keeps me going. It's the top of the pile, is the Championship. You can take your League Cups, F.A. Cups and European Cups and put them in a corner. To win our First Division is incredible — and I've done it with two small clubs.





IN Middlesbrough's bid this season to appeal to the public with a more entertaining brand of football than they served up in the Seventies, three of the Ayresome club's squad have been gaining their share of the plaudits from the fans — they are Craig Johnston, Mark Proctor and Dave Hodgson.

But while the praise of the supporters is welcome, the opinion that players most respect is that of a team-mate.

And at Middlesbrough the judgment of Billy Ashcroft on Johnston, Proctor and Hodgson must carry extra weight, because in his dual role as centre-half and centre-forward he has been able to observe them closely not only in defence but also in attack.

Says Ashcroft: "Operating up front for a spell, then moving into the back-four, has meant that at different times, I've depended on the support of my team-mates in my two positions. So I know at first hand how they perform in the two parts of the field.

"For example, as a midfielder man, Craig Johnston makes a tremendous contribution to the team. His foraging runs open up the opposing defence and create opportunities for his centre-forward, and if he is given a specific marking job to do, he assists his back-four.

Real Class

"And the finest display I've seen from Craig was in the second half against Brighton early in November. His control, distribution and general reading of the game stamped him as a player of real class, one who dominated his section of the field.

"He is an aggressive competitor, giving all he's got through the 90 minutes, and capable of shooting strongly from 40 yards. Also, Craig is very good in the air, with his mobility as one of his outstanding assets.

"If he does have a weakness it is not connected with his skill on the ball — it's more in the matter of tactics. But he is improving fast in this respect.

Along with Ashcroft's assessment of Johnston as a midfielder man, goes one just as thorough when he weighs up the strengths and weaknesses of another Boro midfielder, Mark Proctor.

"Mark is a natural footballer who uses the ball intelligently, able to switch the play quickly from left to right-wing with an accurate pass.

"He is powerfully built, and has a good understanding with Craig Johnston, filling up the empty space when Craig sets off in one of his attacking bursts which might take him into the opposing penalty area.

"With his stamina, Mark can run all day, and with him in midfield we know that our opponents are not going to find it easy to take over in this department.

"He is average in heading ability, and perhaps needs to strengthen his tackle a little, but nothing alters the fact that he is a great factor in the smooth running of the side — I would hate us to be without him."

And if Ashcroft admits the importance to Middlesbrough of Proctor, he has no hesitation in naming a man he would never leave out of the team line-up — Dave Hodgson.

"Dave is a striker who doesn't always have the best of luck when it comes to scoring, and has had a bad patch of going 15 games without finding the net. Yet even if he isn't getting goals, he is doing so much with his running off the ball, plus galloping back to help the defence, that he is always making his presence felt.

"And in one spell I had up front, alongside Dave, we formed a very effective partnership, with plenty of goals coming from it. Physically, he is another strong type of player whose work rate never flags.

"So it's hardly surprising that with Craig Johnston, Mark Proctor, Dave Hodgson and fellows like Jim Platt, John Craggs and David Armstrong in our squad, that I fancy an improving Middlesbrough to be among the leaders at the end of the season."

Mark Proctor goes close in the 5-0 demolition of Swansea in the F.A. Cup (left). David Hodgson (below) and Billy Ashcroft (below, left) are sparking the Boro revival.

A BETTER BORO





Kevin Keegan has always enjoyed a good laugh, but it wasn't his Charlie Chaplin impressions (left) which gained him an award for a good dress sense! Arsenal team-mates Kenny Sansom and Graham Rix (above) prepare for some friendly rivalry, while Chelsea boss Geoff Hurst welcomes the West Indian cricketers to Stamford Bridge (right).



SOCCE



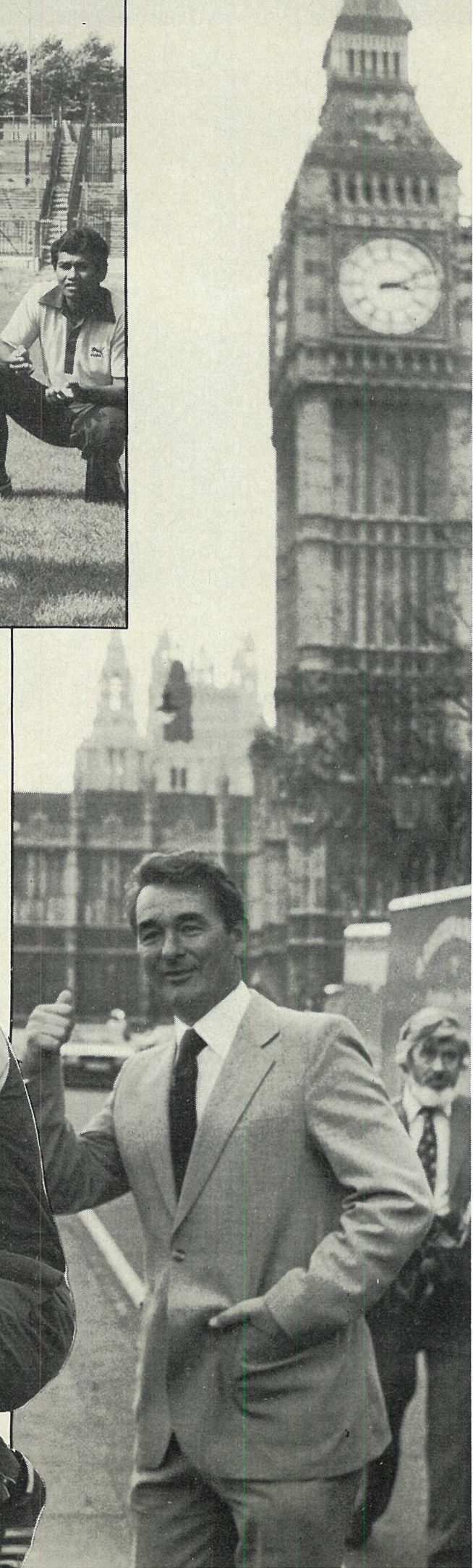
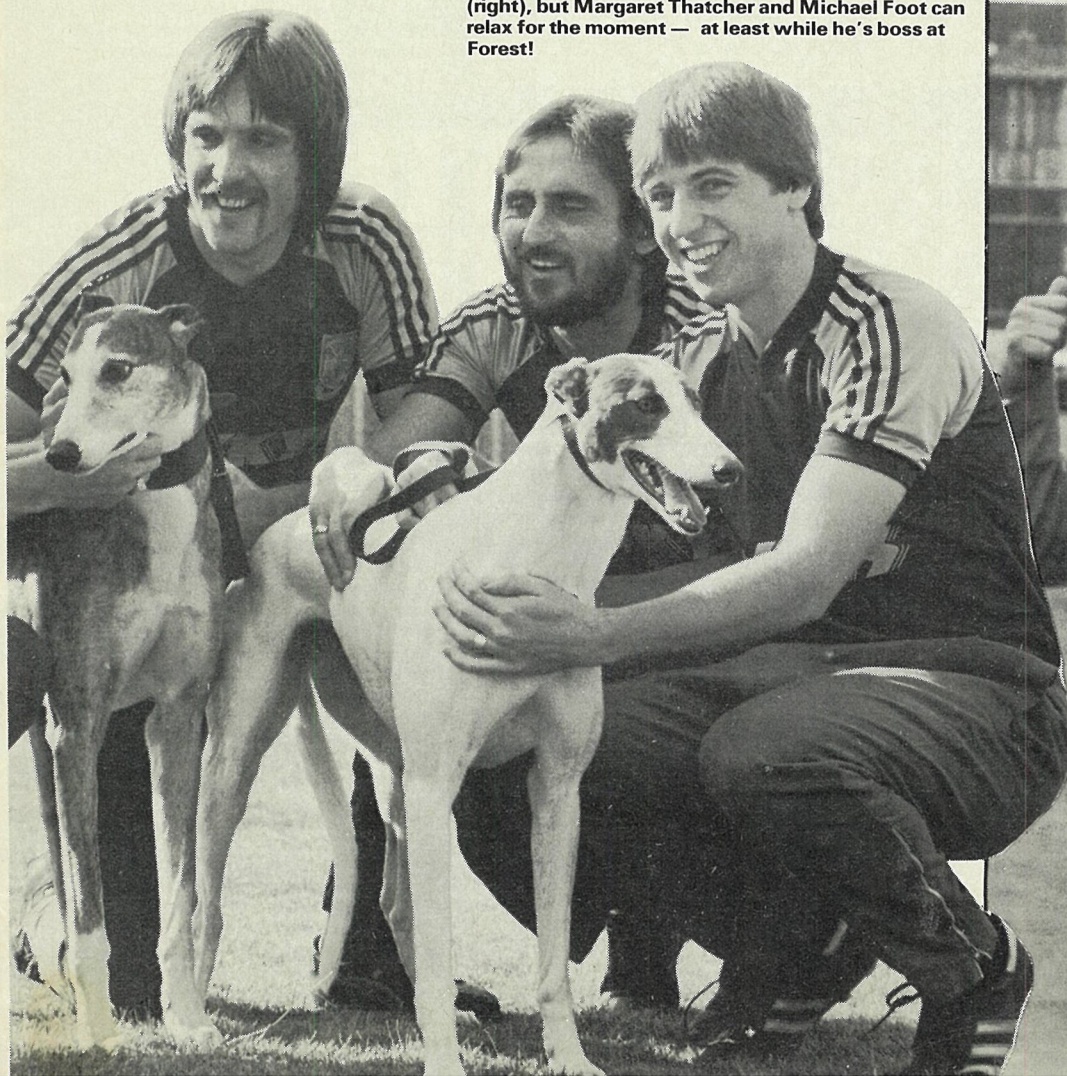
West Bromwich Albion's Alistair Robertson tries his hand at cricket during a testimonial at The Hawthorns (left), while West Ham team-mates Pat Holland, Frank Lampard, Phil Parkes and Geoff Pike are clearly going to the dogs.





DRAMA

Brian Clough has often threatened to turn to politics (right), but Margaret Thatcher and Michael Foot can relax for the moment — at least while he's boss at Forest!





Graham Rix finds a way past Brighton defender Steve Foster.

was no reaction to Liam's departure," said Brian. "We knew he was going and just got on with the job in hand. After all, Liverpool lost Kevin Keegan and still won League titles; yet when Kevin left, some people made out it was the end of the world.

"What we may lack in skill, we more than make up for in hard work. Graham Rix will develop and fill the job vacated by Brady. Rix has all the skill and ability to do it, he just needs time to develop as a player.

"We started the season by letting John Hollins sit in front of the back-four, with me doing all the running up and down. But it didn't really work out and we had a couple of poor results.

"From that anchor man sitting in front of the back-four, we changed it so that John and myself were going up and down through the middle with Price on the right, and Rix and the left."

Talbot is slightly concerned that people may expect too much too soon from Rix.

"Comparing him with Brady is unfair," he says. "In time, he can become an exceptional player but he needs that time, like anyone else. His vision is excellent but perhaps he needs to become more involved in midfield. Sometimes he's too keen to play one-touch stuff instead of holding it, but he sees things so early that maybe that is natural. If he improves like he has been doing for the past two seasons, he'll become a hell of a player.

"But I do feel he needs to develop some more physical strength. Through getting more of the ball and more responsibility

THE Arsenal midfield has learned to live without its chief component, Irishman Liam Brady. The man who pulled all the strings in the Londoners' tactical plans out on the field last season, is now with Juventus in the Italian League — and Arsenal have been left to replace a world class player.

Whatever the merits of Brady's decision to play abroad, no one can doubt his immense value to the London club for the past few seasons. And that's why his departure left a real gap; giving Terry Neill, Don Howe and Co. big problems in replacing him.

But Arsenal are fighting back, says midfield man Brian Talbot. And the reason? "Arsenal Football Club is bigger and always will be bigger than Liam Brady or any other single player," says Talbot.

"Any side would miss Brady. It's like taking the conductor out of an orchestra and saying you don't miss him. Of course you do. But others have to adapt and do that little bit better, to make things succeed."

Talbot is one of the men Arsenal are relying on to help them through the initial loss of the Eire star. Brilliant youngster Graham Rix, veteran John Hollins and another young player, David Price, are others aiming to fill the gap. But how is it all working out? How are the others adapting to the loss of their midfield leader?

Talbot believes there may be a danger of similarity in the midfield



Brian Talbot has added power to the Arsenal midfield.

RIX WILL FILL THE BRADY GAP

as things stand. He says: "With the players we have got in midfield, there are probably three similar players... John Hollins, David Price and myself.

"Maybe that isn't the perfect arrangement but who is to say we won't still succeed?"

"At Ipswich, we won the Cup with an almost identical set-up; three midfield men who were very alike in their style — John Wark, Roger Osborne and myself. It worked well enough for the club then, so I've no doubt it will work for Arsenal.

"We may not have the skills of Brady or Rix but the three of us can run all day and are very powerful. In addition, John Hollins has great experience and is using that in his vision and reading of the game. He is knocking some great long balls around the field and that is helping to give us variety. So time may show that it works well enough.

"At the start of the season there

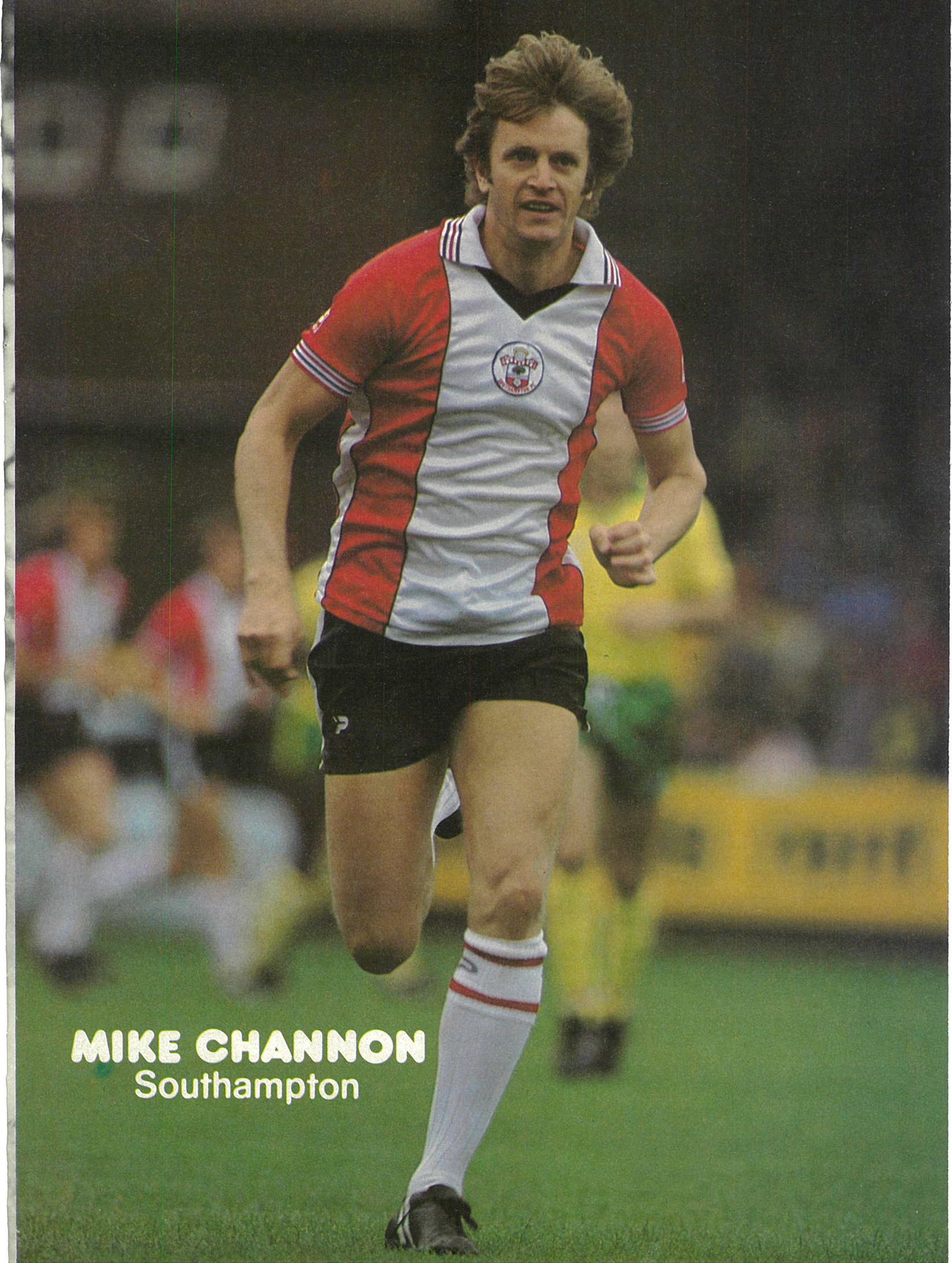
which is what's happening now that Liam has gone, I think Rix will probably become stronger.

"People still talk about how much we miss Liam, but they should remember he had only an average season last year, by his illustrious standards. yet Arsenal reached two Cup Finals, so there was clearly a great deal more to the side than just Liam Brady."

And what of Ipswich, Talbot's old club and now regarded as likely contenders to Liverpool's Championship throne?

"Yes, it's good to see them doing well but they're not the only side in with a chance in the League this season," he says.

"I reckon we'll be close because we've got the squad now, and Aston Villa are also poised to do well. At the start of the season I was sure the title wouldn't be a two horse race this time, like it was last season. Look's like I've been proved right."



MIKE CHANNON
Southampton



A hot-line to Bill Shankly and another to the present Liverpool boss Bob Paisley can't be a bad thing for any new manager. Nor can Peter Cormack's contacts in England be a handicap as boss of Partick Thistle.

Cormack, the one-time Nottingham Forest, Liverpool and Bristol City star, stepped into the manager's job at Firhill after Bertie Auld quit to go to Hibs.

He was third choice — the Firhill directors tried for Morton's Benny Rooney and then Celtic's assistant John Clark before fixing on Cormack who was back at Hibs

there are things in the Liverpool system which can be adopted.

"Little things, like, for instance when they play a five-a-side game before the real training starts. Even there players are encouraged to give the ball and then keep moving, looking for position.

"And if they lose possession then they have to do everything possible to get the ball back, to harry the opposition, to force them into mistakes. All this in a kick-around five-a-side game.

"But it's there that they impress good habits on the players and these habits last. The players carry

Cormack in his time at Liverpool, watching former team-mate Alex Lindsay being put through his paces.

Premier Division.

"If that's all I could manage in say three years then I'd look on myself as a failure. I'd like to take the team into Europe, at least, in that time."

Cormack is ambitious. That's understandable in someone who gathered half-a-dozen top medals with Liverpool — but his ambition will be allied to the strong streak of common-sense which has ruled Liverpool over the past two

decades.

If things had turned out differently Cormack could have been back in England continuing his career. He had offers to go there, including one from his old Bristol City mate Norman Hunter, who is new boss at Barnsley.

Cormack might have been his partner. Instead he is at Firhill trying to guide Partick Thistle still further from the 'joke team' image which has clung to the club for so long.

Thirty-four-year old Cormack could be the man who nails that tag forever . . .

Partick's Liverpool connection

as player-coach.

But that doesn't concern Cormack. What does concern him is getting on with the job, keeping Thistle in the Premier League, and then expanding his horizons next season. In doing so he knows that he can speak to Shanks or Bob Paisley any time he needs advice.

"They've both told me that I can ring them at anytime," he says.

"Obviously there will be times when I'll be needing advice and they have experienced all the problems that any manager is likely to come up against — and they've probably beaten them all!

"I've spoken to both of them since taking the job and they were marvellous. Shanks told me right off how he had played for Thistle when he was stationed near Glasgow during the war. So that's another link for him . . ."

The link which Cormack has with Liverpool and Shankly has been tremendously influential. During his years at Anfield when he was Kevin Keegan's room-mate for five years, Cormack's philosophy on soccer was formed.

Basically he believes implicitly in the simplicity of the Liverpool system and in the good habits they teach players and the continuity they have had in these ideas down through the Shankly years and beyond.

He says: "It's something I'm trying to get through to the Thistle players. I know that we are limited because the lads are part-time, but

them on into matches. It's very simple sounding but it's at the very heart of their style.

"Honestly, there is nothing magical about Liverpool. Everything is based on the simple, basic things in the game. They pay a great deal of attention to these and it has paid off.

"Remember, too, there haven't been many changes in the training staff. There has been a continuity there that has been perfect for the club.

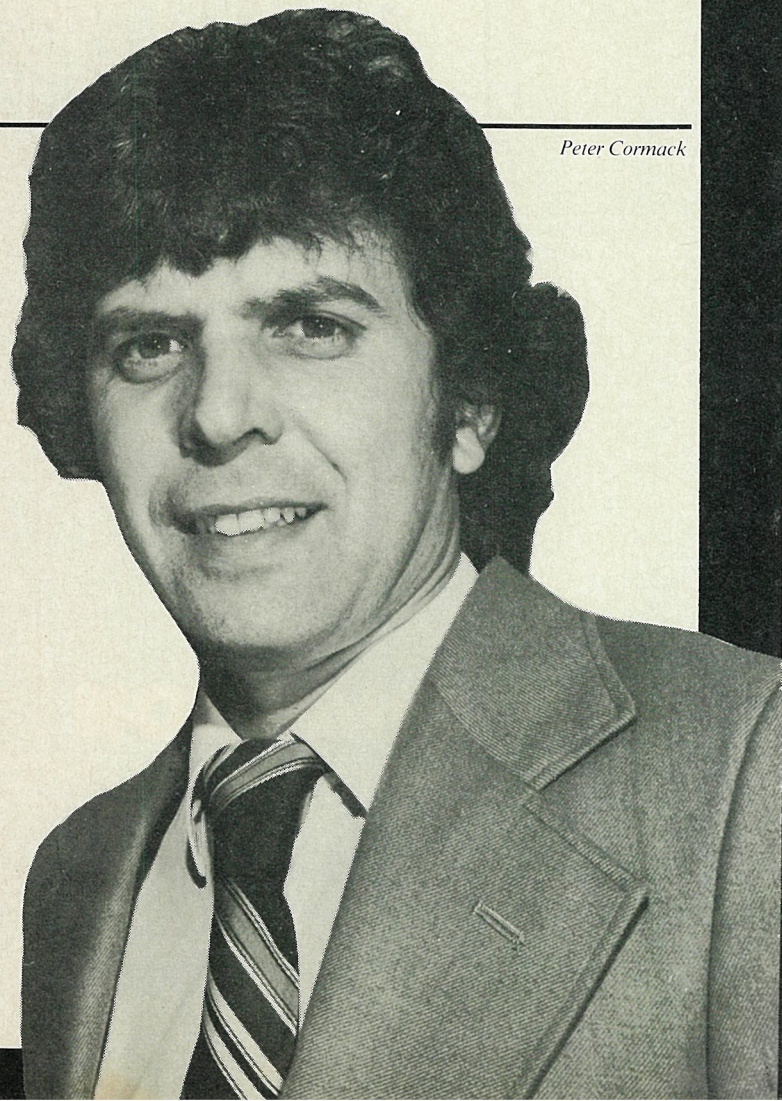
"Yet for all the talk about super-fitness I've been at places where I trained harder than I did at Anfield."

Cormack has started to introduce some of his own ideas into training at Firhill. All the routines have been changed and he doesn't want staleness to creep in.

After the game against Aberdeen at Firhill, which ended in a 1-1 draw, Pittodrie boss Alex Ferguson praised Thistle for being 'more adventurous'. It was some of Cormack rubbing off — though the full benefits won't be seen until next season.

He explains: "The players are into a certain way of playing and it would have been wrong for me to make drastic changes halfway through a season.

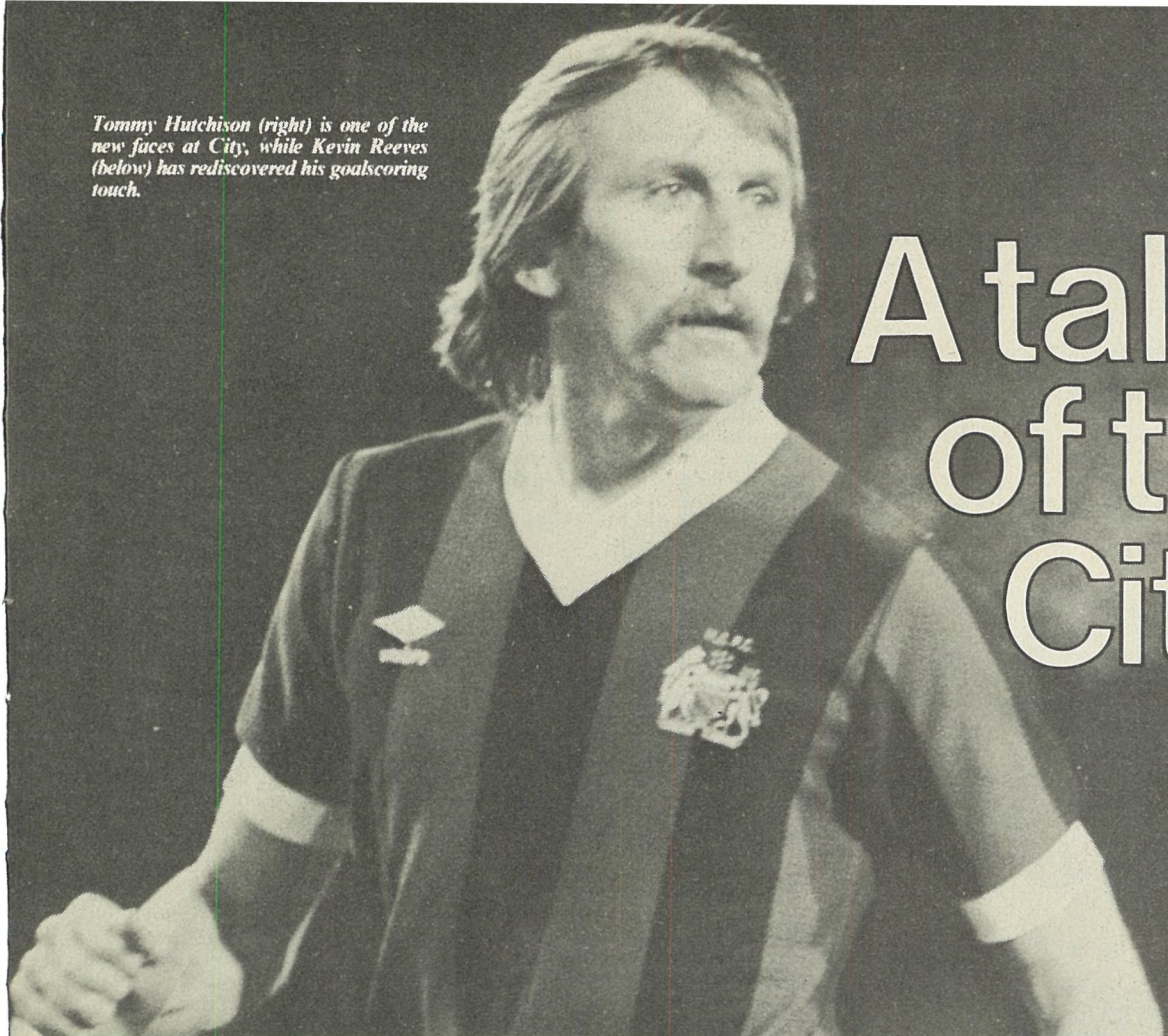
"Next season I can start trying out the changes after we have had a pre-season spell to work on ideas. You see, I'm not going to be happy with just surviving in the



Peter Cormack

Tommy Hutchison (right) is one of the new faces at City, while Kevin Reeves (below) has rediscovered his goalscoring touch.

A tale of two Cities



NOTTINGHAM Forest's remarkable rise from the depths of Division Two to the heights of Europe is about to be emulated.

Who says so? None other than Tommy Hutchison who believes that his new love Manchester City are about to embark on an exciting adventure to rival the feats of Brian Clough and his merry men.

City don't have so far to go up the ladder as Forest did, being a First Division side already, but if Hutchison's prediction were to come true the feat would be almost as staggering bearing in mind they were plunging headlong towards the Second Division only four or five months ago.

The arrival of the three Johns from Norwich, Bond, Benson and Sainty, and subsequently players like Hutchison, Bobby and Gerry Gow has transformed City.

It's like seeing a down-and-out tramp in the gutter, suddenly appear in top hat and tails in the lounge of the Savoy.

And yet there are those sceptics who insist that it can't go on, that City are living in a world of false promises.

Hutchison dismisses that suggestion emphatically, however: "I have had all the proof I need that this is not a bubble that will burst just as dramatically as it has blown up.

"If that were the case we would have lost three or four games, whereas in fact what happened was that after we got beaten at Sunderland we came straight back and got a result against Southampton, and again after losing at Tottenham we came home to beat Leeds the following week.



"I think a record of only two defeats in 17 matches speaks for itself, and if we can maintain anything like that sort of form, we should certainly qualify for Europe.

"That's unbelievable when you think of the situation that John Bond inherited. Morale was at a very low ebb, the team hadn't won a single League game, and everyone was convinced City were on their way down to the Second Division.

"We got some good results early on in John Bond's management and things have just snowballed from there really.

"I honestly believe that this is just the beginning of something really big for City. The atmosphere is one of total buoyancy, and I can sense everyone at Maine Road feels that we are in at the start of something big.

"I would love to be a part of it, because although I'm 33 I still feel

I have plenty to offer. I was keen to show Coventry that they were too hasty in letting me go when they did, and I think I've proved something to them the way I've played since the move.

"One newspaper was kind enough to suggest that I was playing the best football of my career, well I don't know about that, but I've always had plenty of confidence in my own ability, and I'd like to think I can do a good job for City for a year or two yet."

Hutchison, of the spindly legs, and graceful movement, was expecting to play out his final days in America when Coventry let it be known that he didn't really figure in their future plans.

The move to Manchester then was at first regarded as a bit of a bonus, but now he sees it as the launching pad to a new phase of his career.

"I can see myself doing the same thing for City that John

Robertson has done for Forest. He was a survivor from the old days at Nottingham, but when better players were secured he became a vital, integral part of a club very much on the upgrade.

"Here at Manchester City we have some very talented footballers and some excellent youngsters. Every side wanting to be successful has to have the experienced players who can help the younger ones along, and I'm proud enough to think I can be the one to help lads like Nicky Reid, Tommy Caton and Gary Buckley develop.

"With other players of the calibre of Paul Power, Ray Ranson, Dave Bennett and Steve Mackenzie now benefitting from the help of the older hands like Gerry Gow, Bobby McDonald, Dennis Tueart and myself I foresee a wonderful future for the club.

"When we newcomers arrived we were quizzical as to why things had gone so wrong under Malcolm Allison.

Baffled

"The players here told us they'd been baffled by his tactics, and to be honest having listened to them I'm not surprised because they'd have baffled me as well.

"It hurt a bit when Big Mal had a go at players like myself, Gerry and Bobby — after all nobody likes to hear rude comments about their ability — but really they only acted as a spur and as we've licked his new club Palace in the Cup we all feel rather better about it now."

Hutchison is looking forward to the future, perhaps more than he has for several years.

"I've never won anything in football, but now I see real hope on the horizon, and as I've always wanted to play in Europe that would be a marvellous way to cap the season for me, if we could qualify through one of the various competitions.

"You have to give great credit to John Bond, because he's made players who'd lost belief in themselves, think again.

"Given just that little bit of luck that all clubs need I truly believe you are about to see the re-emergence of Manchester City as one of, if not the best, club, in the country," says Hutchison.

WHEN Phil Parkes began his career with Walsall he had just one pair of gloves.

They were the basic woollen string type and cost a few bob from a high street store.

Today the world's most expensive 'keeper carries three or four pairs of specially made gloves out on to the pitch with him every week.

"I have a pair to combat all conditions," says Phil.

"And there have been occasions that I've worn all four pairs during a match."

Made in polyurethane, leather, suede and nylon and costing anything from £2 to £16 a pair, gloves are as important to a goalkeeper these days as boots are to outfield players.

"When I started in the game no one really concentrated on equipment for 'keepers," says Phil.

"When they did, goalies soon realised how beneficial gloves could be. Now they are absolutely vital not only to provide surer grip in all conditions, but to help cope with the modern football.

"They put a weatherproof coating on footballs now which can sometimes make them extremely difficult to handle.

"But apart from giving us more confidence, wearing gloves can help to prevent injuries like broken fingers, or putting them out of joint."

The revolution in goalkeeper's gloves didn't really start until the late 1950's, when former Sheffield Wednesday, Q.P.R. and England 'keeper Ron Springett had a pair specially made for him by Laudar Miller.

These incorporated pimple rubbers (as used on table tennis bats) on the fingers for extra grip.

Following this a decade later several new ideas were brought out endorsed by Peter Bonetti.

In fact, the plain, smooth cotton ambidextrous gloves, first used by Peter in the 1967 F.A. Cup Final for Chelsea, are still available today.

Other ideas were on the clothing side, with the previously plain jersey being offered with a contrasting black collar, V insert and cuffs.

Peter Bonetti was the first 'keeper to use plain, smooth cotton gloves.

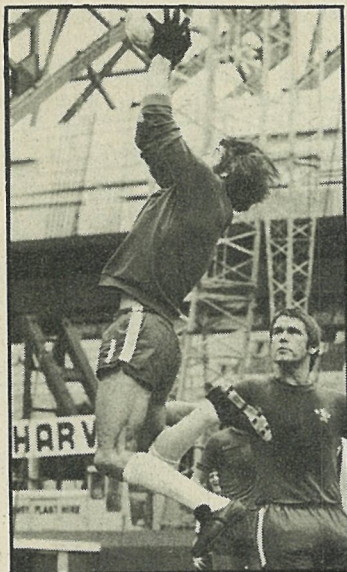
Also for the first time a complete one colour (green) outfit of jersey, shorts and socks.

However, both were subsequently banned by the Football League.

In the 1970's the first dry weather gloves became available, but were mainly used by youngsters not the professionals.

It was noticed around this time that foreign 'keepers wore gloves in all conditions and that the great Bayern Munich and West German number one used padded gloves that looked as big as those worn by wicket keepers in cricket.

Gradually, as more and more Bri-



THE MEN WITH THE GOLDEN GLOVES

tish clubs became involved in European competitions and pre-season tours, so their 'keepers brought the Continental style to the Football League.

One of the first to consistently wear gloves was Phil Parkes, then at Q.P.R.

"Now most professional 'keepers wear special gloves," says Phil.

"Even schoolboys and 'keepers in the junior Leagues wouldn't be seen without them.

"I'm always being asked by the kids which gloves I wear. Naturally I give them all the help and advice I can."

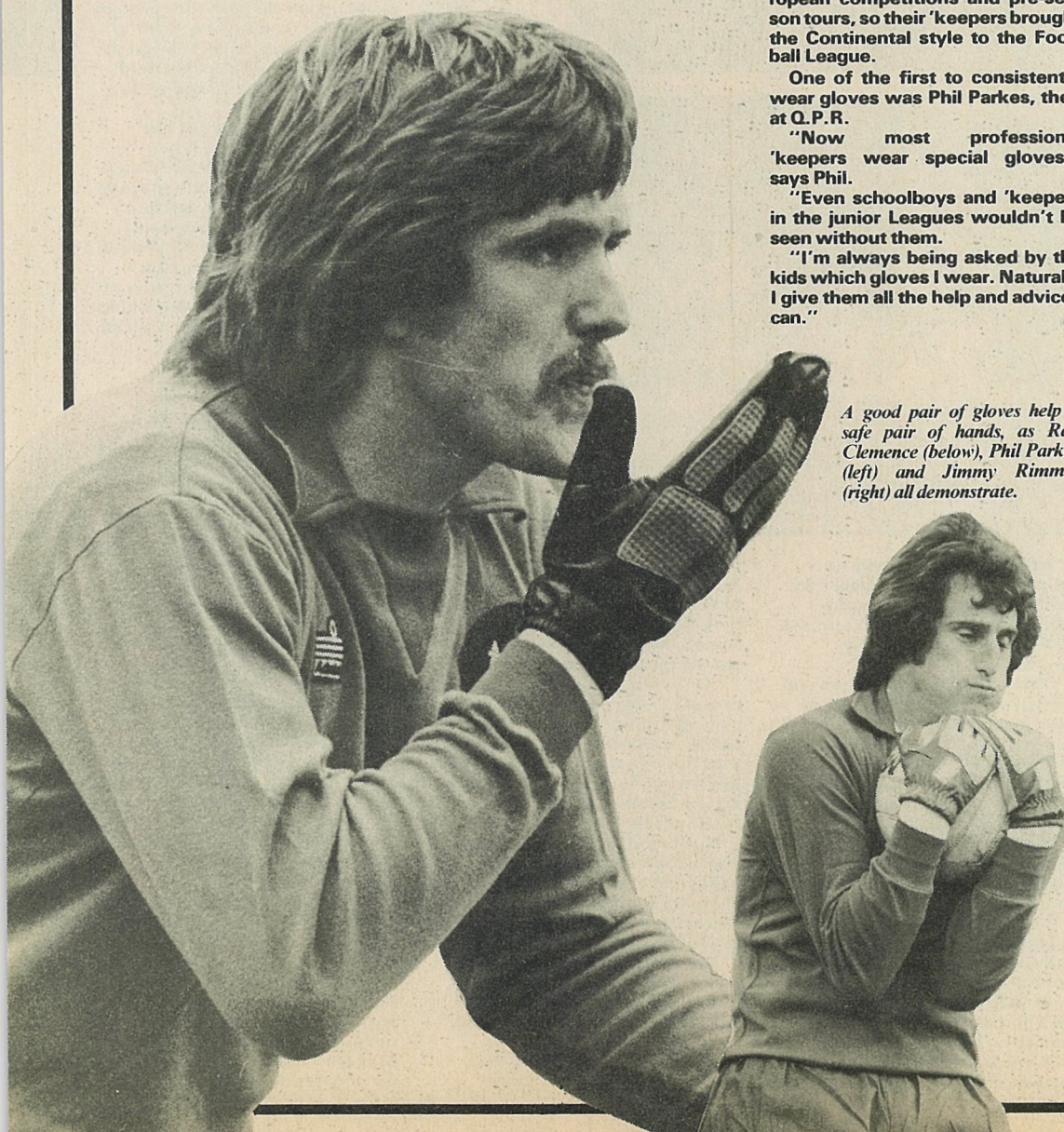
Today goalkeeper's gloves, along with the soccer boot and replica kit trade is booming business.

Phil uses gloves brought from West Germany by Starcraft. Jimmy Rimmer is contracted to a West German company Uhlsport. England's Ray Clemence, Peter Shilton and Joe Corrigan use British gloves made by Sondico.

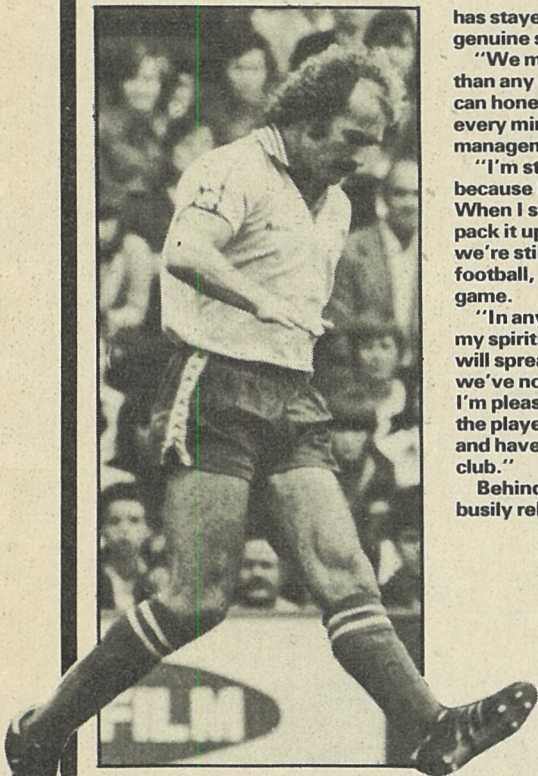
Certainly this revolution has helped keep these men with the golden gloves at the top of their profession.

• Gloves worn by Phil Parkes (Starcraft), Ray Clemence (Sondico) and Jimmy Rimmer (Uhlsport) are all advertised in SHOOT weekly.

A good pair of gloves help a safe pair of hands, as Ray Clemence (below), Phil Parkes (left) and Jimmy Rimmer (right) all demonstrate.



ROVERS RISING FROM THE ASHES



When Terry Cooper (above) took over Second Division strugglers Bristol Rovers he soon had the place bubbling with bright ideas. But then his ambitious plans went up in smoke... literally.

For the fire which burnt down Rovers' main grandstand was, Cooper believes, the root cause of the club's disastrous start to the season.

"Before the fire the atmosphere throughout the club was tremendous," explains the former Leeds and England left-back.

"I had made a lot of simple changes to the way the club was run, and we were creating a more professional attitude. Everybody was really looking forward to the new season.

"We had painted the dressing rooms, got brand new kit, and organised the players' routine. Then the whole lot was destroyed in the fire and we were back to muddling through from day to day."

While the remains of the burnt-out stand were demolished Rovers had to play five "home" games at the Ashton Gate ground of their neighbours Bristol City. And when they did go back to their own Eastville stadium the capacity was cut to only 6,700.

The problems were reflected on the field, as Rovers hit a disastrous run which sent them sliding to the bottom of the Second Division as the last of the 92 clubs to win a League game.

Throughout it all only one thing

has stayed unchanged... the genuine smile on Cooper's face.

"We must have more problems than any club in the League, but I can honestly say I have enjoyed every minute of my first taste of management," he says.

"I'm still playing at 36, partly because I love the game so much. When I stop enjoying football I'll pack it up. Despite all our problems we're still trying to play good football, and we're enjoying our game.

"In any case I have got to keep my spirits up. If I get depressed it will spread to the lads, and then we've no chance. At the moment I'm pleased with the spirit among the players. They have roughed it, and haven't stopped trying for the club."

Behind the scenes Rovers are busily rebuilding all the facilities



destroyed in the fire by putting up new buildings at their training ground. It could be more than a year before the damaged stand itself is replaced.

"The little things make so much difference," says Cooper. "I want the players to come in in the morning and find their kit all laid out, and their boots clean.

"When they finish training it should be taken away and washed, and the boots got ready for the next day. Small things like that give a player confidence, make him feel professional. It gives the place a business-like atmosphere.

"Well for a few weeks we had all that sort of thing — and then suddenly we were left with no facilities at all."

The biggest bonus from a season littered with frustrations and problems has been the emergence of some of the club's talented youngsters.

"We've brought two teenagers — Mark Hughes and Geraint Williams — into the side and they have both done well. And the biggest success has been 20-year-old Mike Barrett, a winger we found in local football.

"We've got other youngsters at the club, enough to give us real hope for the future. It might look as if the club is crumbling, but in fact we're building strong foundations for the future.

"When we've finished we'll really set the place alight — but this time in the nicest way possible!"

John Shaw believes that his team, Bristol City, have a bigger incentive than most of their rivals in the relegation zone to win matches between now and May.

He says: "We are the only one of the bottom clubs who could have a drop from the First Division to the Third in two years, if we are relegated.

"It is a disaster that nobody connected with City likes to contemplate, finishing among the lowest three for the second successive season.

"For us, it would be a tragedy. Bristol City entered the First Division with high hopes in 1979, looking forward to becoming established in the top flight, then after a long struggle to survive we were eventually relegated.

"And I think that in the opening half of this term we were still



'RELEGATION A DISASTER' Claims John Shaw (Bristol City)

suffering from the effects of fighting a lost cause in 1979-80. Being relegated last May, and our loss of form before then, affected the confidence of the players, so that in the Second Division we carried on playing the sort of football that resulted in us taking the drop from Division One.

"The slide just continued, and we realised that we would have to battle every inch of the way to try to stop it. We are fighting to stay in the Second Division, because the shocking start we made to this season has brought home to us the fact that anything less than total effort isn't enough."

Specialist

As a 'keeper, Shaw is concerned about every goal he concedes. He says: "My position is a specialist one, and every time I'm beaten I try to find out the reason for it. I go over every detail in my mind, taking into account angles and distances, attempting to work out ways of dealing with a similar situation should it arise again.

"And in the Second Division, I've found that there are more aerial attempts to penetrate defences than in the First. These days I more frequently come up against sides who use the long, high ball to a big man up front, and his job is to create chances for his team-mates by flicking or nodding the ball on.

"In contrast, my experience in the First Division was that goals were often scored through neat ground passing and good positional play. The build-up might start at the back, reach mid-field, and from there the ball would be skilfully moved forward to set up a

scoring opportunity for a striker — due to this technique, more "wonder" goals are hit in the top class than in the Second Division."

As well as noticing a difference between Division One and Two, Shaw is aware of changes in Bristol City's present style as compared with the type of game adapted in past seasons against teams of the calibre of Liverpool and Manchester United.

"During our spell in the First Division when we had Norman Hunter, Peter Cormack and Joe Royle in the line-up, we were able to serve up good-class football. Now, with the departure of these players, we frequently use hustle and bustle methods, relying on upsetting the opposition.

"But what has gone against us has been the failure at times to finish off attacks with goals — this has often encouraged the other team, to the extent that they come forward and put pressure on our defence."

However, living with pressure is nothing new to Shaw or City following the reverses of this season.

John says: "Our morale, under our manager Bobby Houghton, has been excellent, even when results have gone against us. We all feel we must stay in the Second Division and our situation is certainly not hopeless — there is time for us to steer clear of a bottom place."

**STAY ON
THE BALL
WITH SHOOT
EVERY WEEK!**

KELLY GOES FOR DOUBLE~DOUBLE



Eddie Kelly, the man who did it all and saw it all in the midfield of Arsenal's "double"-winning side a decade ago, is out to complete another personal double in 1981 — promotion with Notts County after helping Leicester City win the Second Division Championship last season.

Why then, did 29-year-old Kelly ("I want to play in the First Division again. It's not the same lower down.") quit Filbert Street after last season's success? He had played in 34 games, captained Jock Wallace's precocious starlets — and was back in the top flight.

"I was sad to go," he says. "My contract with Leicester had run out, and I was offered a new one, but I couldn't agree. Notts County came in with an offer. We had played them twice and I was impressed with their football."

"I've only joined them on a one-year contract, although I plan to play on for at least another couple of years. At some future time, I quite fancy America."

It is all a far cry from Glasgow, where Kelly was nurtured before coming south to join Arsenal. He has not lost the accent — each sentence is prefaced by Och! — of a country that surprisingly never gave him a full international cap.

Kelly's medals at his Leicester home include a Fairs Cup memento, 1970 vintage, in addition to those of the League Championship and F.A. Cup 1970-71.

Among happy memories from his hard-grafting years at Highbury, he recalls his old friend Sammy Nelson telling the soccer world his ambition — next to playing football — was to

become a brain surgeon.

From Arsenal, Kelly went to Leicester via Queens Park Rangers. He believes City will survive the drop this season, and go on to brighter things in the First Division. He also reckons that Notts County would beat them if the teams met tomorrow.

"There are skilful players on both sides but we tend to create slower build-ups — which are really better suited to the First Division."

"We concentrate hard on team-work. The centre-backs play the ball around and the midfield is experienced! We don't just belt the ball up-field. It all bodes well for next season."

Despite their advance under Jimmy Sirrel, County are still shaded by Nottingham Forest and Brian Clough next door. But Kelly doesn't see it staying that way.

"We're learning and getting a wee bit more of the limelight this season. Our crowds have picked up and although the two grounds are so close, the players honestly don't think about being in Forest's shadow."

"Who will go up? West Ham are certainties — more of a First Division team this season than before. Chelsea, too, are having a good run, and they will both be thereabouts."

But Kelly stays tight-lipped on one subject — whether Notts County born 1862 and the oldest club in the Football League, will go back to the First Division after 55 years.

One thing is sure. If they do, it will be due in no small measure to the experience and guile of Eddie Kelly.

There are those in the Derbyshire town of Chesterfield who came out with the unoriginal comment around May, that the local football team "didn't want to go up to the Second Division."

That, of course, is highly unlikely because any club in with a chance of winning promotion, is going to do its utmost to achieve the very target it sets itself.

But the comments were in a way understandable. They were born of disbelief that the club could be in such a position to challenge anyway.

You see Chesterfield have done almost absolutely nothing for well over 30 years, and supporters have got into the habit of thinking that they'd probably never do anything again.

The sceptics point to the fact that since the Spireites lost their Second Division status in 1951, the graph on the map has gone virtually one way — down.

There was one brief glimmer of hope in 1970 when Chesterfield won the Fourth Division, but ten years on they have merely been content to preserve that place in the Third Division.

There hasn't even been the bonus of Cup glory, the best effort being a place in the Fourth Round of the League Cup — and that was 15 years ago.

But enough of the sob stuff. Even the hardened Jonahs are beginning to wonder if at long last the local football club is coming out of its long sleep.

Last season's fourth position has been followed up by a most encouraging start to this season, and not even a managerial change appears to have deflected the progress.

Chesterfield Challenge

When Arthur Cox went to Newcastle the ammunition was there for the know-alls to claim: "They've done it again. Sold our chance down the river."

But because Frank Barlow has taken over from Cox and kept the

Alan Birch (No. 7) blasts through a crowded penalty-area to score for Chesterfield at Fulham.

ship on an even keel those knockers are having to think again.

Barlow has never been one of the big names of professional football. He admits as much.

"I was never a great player. I was too slow, but I always gave 100 per cent for Sheffield United, which was my major club, and sometimes I think if all players did that it would be a better and fairer game."

"Actually when Arthur left I had a think about the manager's job here and I decided I didn't want it. I knew what I was doing as coach, I was happy working with players but I wasn't sure if I would be able to handle the other aspects of a manager's job."

"The thought of picking up a telephone and finding someone like Brian Clough or Lawrie McMenemy on the other end wanting one of my players, filled me with trepidation, but the more I get used to the job the more I like it."

Barlow decided to take the job eventually because of the fear that if a new man came in, he could be out of work.

"So many managers want to bring in their own staff, the men they know. So I thought to myself 'Why not have a go' and I'm glad that I did."

It was against Barlow's own principles to accept a job with a club heading for promotion because he'd always felt it right to start a managerial career with a club right at the bottom.

"The trouble was I felt that if we did achieve something at Chesterfield people would only say that it was really Arthur Cox's side. On the other hand if we fail they will say I've taken the team down."

"Mind you I've no regrets and if you think about it the alternative was to apply for a job elsewhere and they wouldn't have known me or my capabilities, whereas at least they know me at Chesterfield."

The signs are good. Since Barlow assumed control Chesterfield have kept the pot boiling and look to be in with an outstanding chance of regaining that elusive Second Division spot.





'DREAM' DAWSON

"ALLY DAWSON for Scotland" was the chant and a bright, beaming smile spread handsomely across the face of Rangers' magnificent young left-back.

It must have sounded like sweet music to his ears for at one stage last season there were fears about him ever playing again!

Dawson, after playing for Scotland against Hungary in the famous Nep Stadium, went on an end-of-the-season trip with Rangers to Canada and it was there that he received the sickening blow that almost put him out of the game.

A forward's boot caught him on the head and he had to be rushed from the pitch with blood gushing from the wound. There was talk of a fractured skull, but Rangers manager John Greig refused to panic and played down the incident.

However, at the start of the new season there was still no sign of Dawson. Alex Forsyth started the term in the No. 3 jersey and then Alex Miller moved in. There was also talk of Rangers making a bid for Partick Thistle's unsettled left-back Brian Whittaker.

Thankfully, though, Dawson persevered with his comeback until his courage and outstanding bravery were rewarded with a first team comeback before the turn of the year.

He showed he was ready for the rigours of Premier League football once more when he turned in a faultless performance against Celtic as Rangers galloped to a 3-0 triumph at Ibrox.

The fans were thoroughly convinced of his recovery after that great display and he says: "It was marvellous to hear them cheering me on and chanting my name. However, I was just happy to finish the game and for Rangers to get both points."

Dawson is one of football's unsung heroes. He is a talented, gifted young player who could probably make a hit of soccer in any position such is his wide and varied range of skills.

He has the deft touch of a classy midfielder, yet can tackle like a demon and likes nothing better than to surge forward with his attack and let fly at goal.

"Manager John Greig is always encouraging us to link with the attack and go forward," says Dawson.

"We don't leave the back door open, of course, but we try to entertain the fans at Ibrox."

"I'm told to get into the other team's half whenever I can and that suits me. I like having a go at goal and I wouldn't mind scoring a few more than I do at the moment."

Neutral soccer fans applauded warmly when Dawson's comeback was complete. He is the type of refreshing young player the game is crying out for at the moment.

John Greig says: "He is a manager's dream, no trouble whatsoever. He is a 100 per cent performer who will play in any role for the team."

Ally Dawson for Scotland? Yes, and for years to come, we would say!

Pat 'The Cat'

THE fans groaned in dismay as the new goalkeeper fumbled the long shot from the full-back and dropped the ball at the feet of the rushing forward...

A goal looked an absolute certainty as the forward reached the ball first and walloped a mighty effort towards the roof of the net. But, in one blinding flash of inspiration, the young 'keeper managed to spring like a cat, arch his back in an athletic leap and touch the raging shot over the crossbar.

There was silence for a split-second, followed by rapturous applause. Pat Bonner, Celtic's young Irish goalkeeper, had won his spurs!

If the Parkhead faithful — whose great favourite was Englishman Peter Latchford — had any lingering doubts about Bonner they were obliterated by that moment of magic that defied a Morton forward in a League game back in August, 1980.

"It was my first League game for the club since I had lost three goals to Motherwell over a year before-hand," says Bonner. "I was anxious to show the fans I had improved and that save helped settle my nerves."

"Mind you, I should really have held the first effort from their full-back Jim Holmes!"

Bonner, snapped up from Eire side Keadue Rovers and already a representative in the Republic of Ireland international squad, has had

to work hard for his 'overnight raise to fame.

"Before Frank Connor left his coaching job with Celtic to go to Berwick Rangers as manager, we used to get down to some hard practice in training," says Bonner.

"He used to really put me through it and was most helpful. Frank, of course, was a former goalkeeper himself with Celtic so he knew what he was talking about."

"Frank passed on some invaluable tips and hints and greatly impressed me. It was funny when Celtic were drawn against Berwick Rangers in the Scottish Cup."

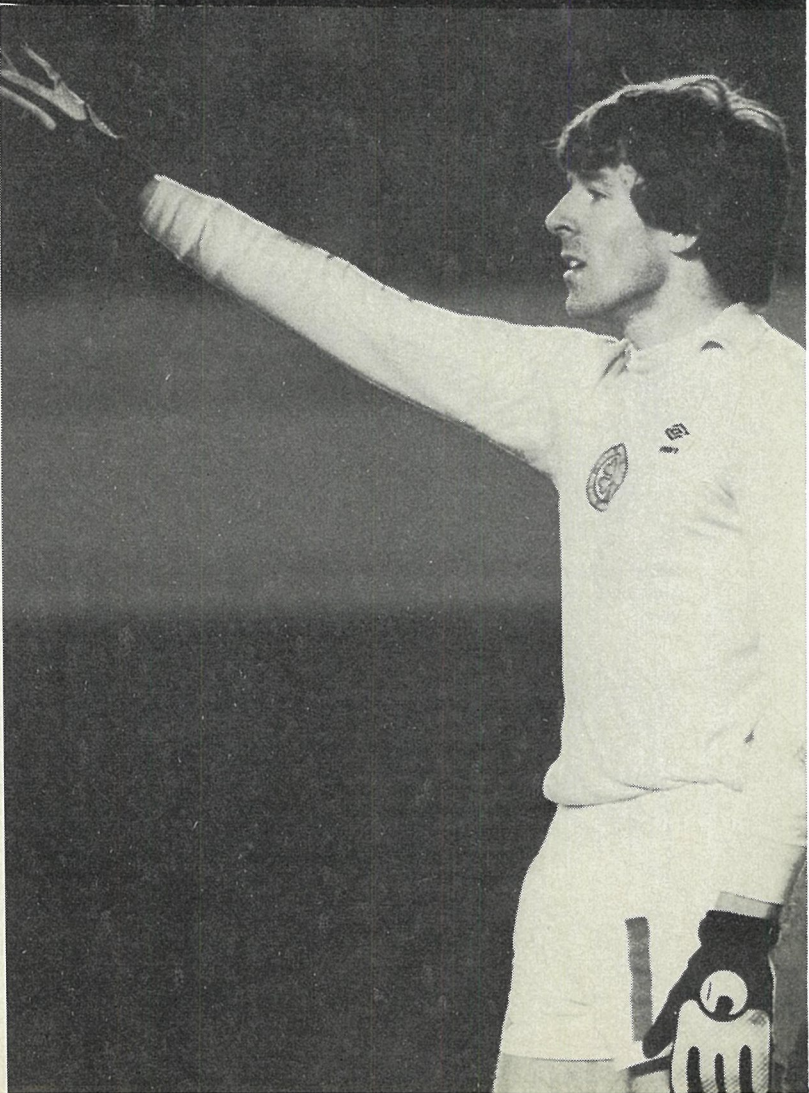
"I realised Frank knew as much about my game as I did myself. In fact, he might even have known more!"

"We won that one 2-0 and it was good to talk to Frank afterwards. I'll never be able to thank him enough for all the time he spent working on my game. It's up to me now to take it from here."

Bonner shies away from the harsh glare of publicity off the field. Yet on the pitch he can be a colourful character, a real personality.

There is intense pressure on this young Irishman every week, but he rarely lets it affect his extreme concentration.

He could be on the club and country scene for an awful long time. That is bad news for strikers who will have to face Celtic and Eire in the coming years!

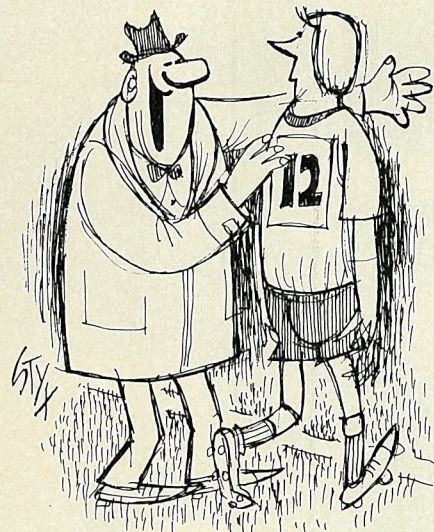




"Somebody phoned the local council to say you had a load of rubbish for collection"

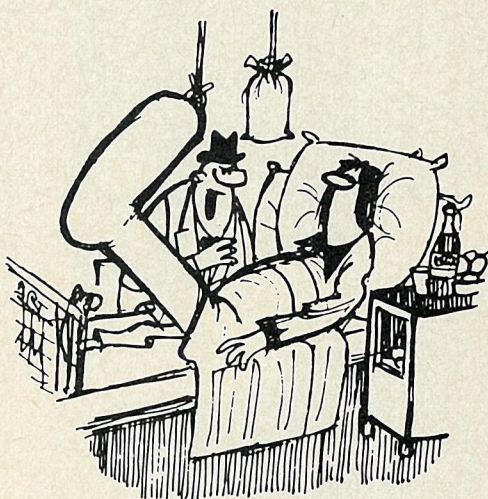


"No, senor — we do not fire manager who fail to win promotion over here — we fire AT him ..."



"Your big chance, kid — score three goals in the last two minutes and you're in next week."

MANAGER MIRTH



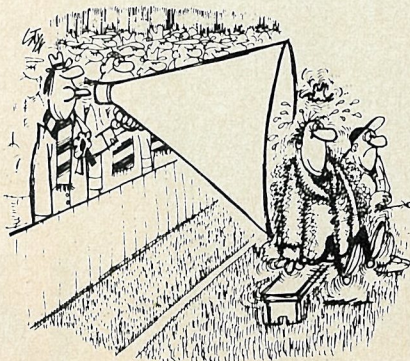
"And remember — no slipping off to a nightclub when nobody is watching you."



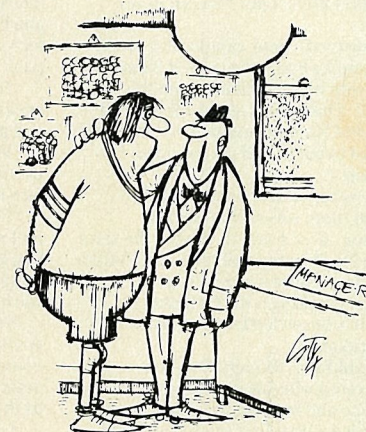
"Your timing is way out, son — wasn't a player within ten yards of you when you were brought down in their penalty-area."



"Five with flu ... three with pulled muscles ... one with a broken leg — and you want Saturday off to get married."



"When I said I wanted you to show a little more enterprise — this wasn't quite what I had in mind."



"Don't regard it as the sack — just one long suspension without pay."



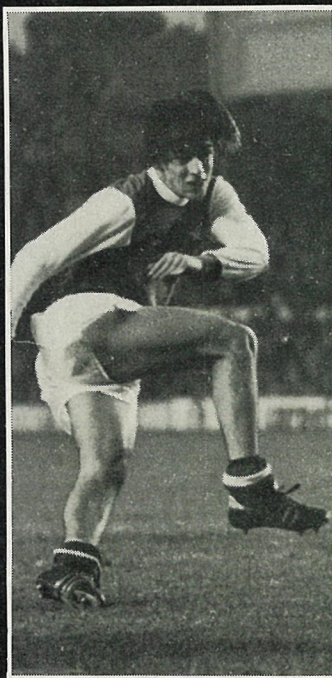
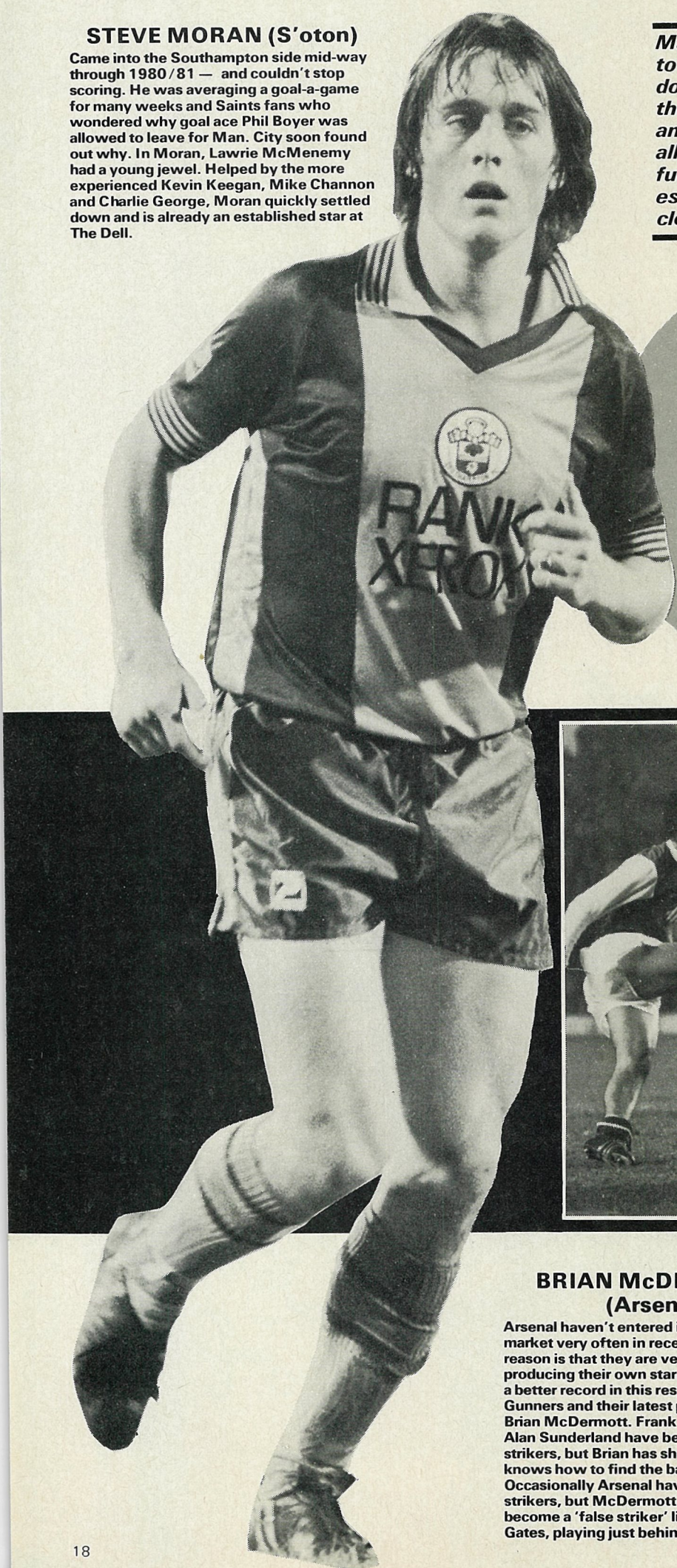
PETER BARNES W.B.A.

STEVE MORAN (S'oton)

Came into the Southampton side mid-way through 1980/81 — and couldn't stop scoring. He was averaging a goal-a-game for many weeks and Saints fans who wondered why goal ace Phil Boyer was allowed to leave for Man. City soon found out why. In Moran, Lawrie McMenemy had a young jewel. Helped by the more experienced Kevin Keegan, Mike Channon and Charlie George, Moran quickly settled down and is already an established star at The Dell.

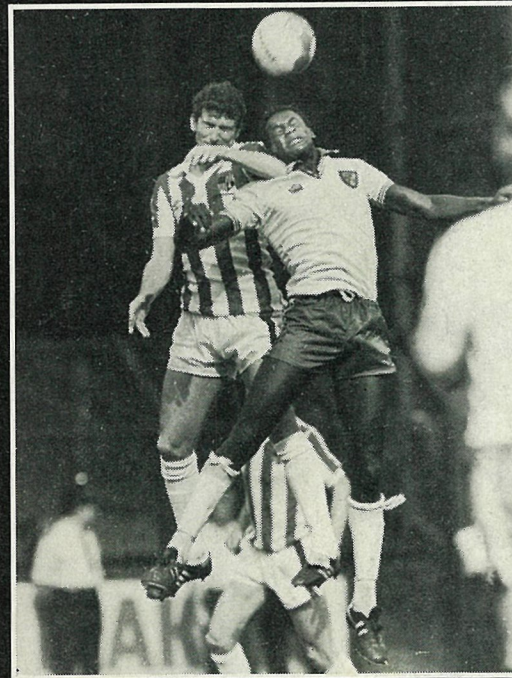
Many youngsters have promised a lot . . . only to not quite live up to their potential. There are dozens of bright young stars making a name for themselves in the Football League right now and we've chosen six whom we believe will go all the way. Players who, in the not too distant future, will be soccer household names . . . established internationals. Here we take a closer look at . . .

S



BRIAN McDERMOTT (Arsenal)

Arsenal haven't entered into the transfer market very often in recent years and the reason is that they are very good at producing their own stars. Few clubs have a better record in this respect than The Gunners and their latest prodigy is forward Brian McDermott. Frank Stapleton and Alan Sunderland have been the established strikers, but Brian has shown he, too, knows how to find the back of the net. Occasionally Arsenal have used three strikers, but McDermott could eventually become a 'false striker' like Ipswich's Eric Gates, playing just behind the front pair.



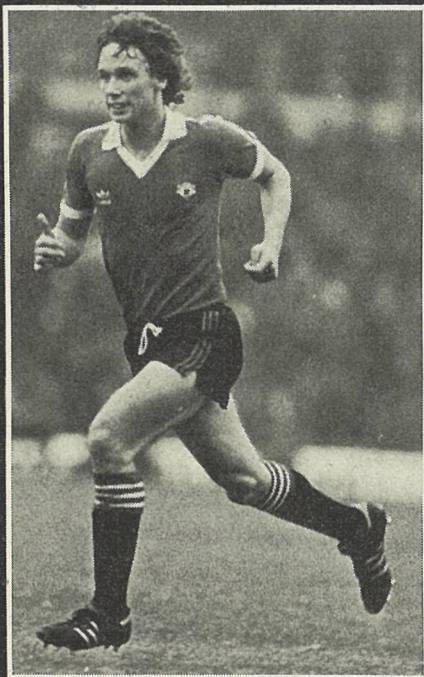
JUSTIN FASHANU (Norwich City)

It's never easy to score in a side that's struggling, but despite the disappointments of Norwich this season, 1980/81 has been a personal triumph for Fashanu. He's cooled his temper and hotted up his appetite for scoring. The former heavyweight boxer has weighed in with some tremendous goals — although not, perhaps, one as good as last year's Goal of the Season against Liverpool! How long he'll stay with Norwich is uncertain; if Justin moves on to a top club he could become the first black star to really hit the big time.

GARY SHAW (Aston Villa)

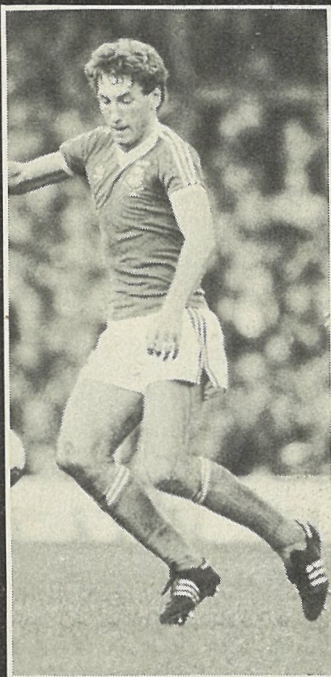
Has been setting the pace in the First Division goal chart this season and could go on to establish himself in the full England side by the time the 1982 World Cup Finals are played. Small, but very quick, Gary has that rare quality: an eye for goal. Peter Shilton compared him to Allan Clarke for his goalscoring skill. Ron Greenwood has been reluctant to try too many youngsters, but Shaw's record may force the England boss to give him a run-out in the national team.

OF THE BEST



MIKE DUXBURY (Man. Utd.)

The terrible spate of injuries which forced United manager Dave Sexton to alter his line-up had a silver lining: Mike Duxbury showed that the Old Trafford team had a youngster more than capable of holding his own in Division One. Duxbury shone in defence and midfield. He was unlucky to lose his place when the internationals were all fit again and Ray Wilkins wrote in SHOOT how unlucky Mike was to be left out. Wilkins, like his team-mates, knows that Duxbury is ready to step in should he be needed.



TERRY BUTCHER (Ipswich Town)

Bobby Robson runs out of superlatives when talking about his young defender — but it isn't bias. Few would deny that Butcher is one of the country's top back-four men and has been tipped to take over from Dave Watson in the England team. While there is no substitute for experience, Watson is now in his mid-30's and if England reach the next World Cup Finals it could be Butcher who will wear the number five shirt.





Monty still fighting



IT is almost 20 years since Jim Montgomery made his League debut for Sunderland, but the 37-year-old goalkeeper, now in his second spell with the Wearsiders, is still confident he has a place in the scheme of things at Roker.

As a man who has been understudy this season to Sunderland's first-choice 'keeper, Chris Turner, Monty is far from being content enough simply to dwell on past memories — though for the Roker fans, he will retain a special place in their affections for a super save in the 1973 F.A. Cup Final, when Sunderland were the underdogs against Leeds United.

At a critical period in the game, United's Peter Lorimer aimed a rocket shot at goal, after Montgomery had made a save from Trevor Cherry — somehow, Monty threw himself at Lorimer's effort from five yards range to deflect the ball against the underside of the bar, and it bounced back into play before being cleared.

What happened after is soccer history, with Sunderland going on to win the Cup, and Montgomery receiving full credit for his part in his team's triumph.

Then in May, 1974, the popular 'keeper had a testimonial match, drawing a crowd of 29,625, which paid a record £16,100.

In the following period, with the Wearsiders starting badly on their return to the First Division, Montgomery lost his place to £80,000 signing Barry Siddall and in March, 1977 moved to Birmingham City on a free transfer.

Following two seasons at St. Andrews, Montgomery was snapped up by his old team-mate, Brian Clough, to act as stand-in for Peter Shilton with Nottingham Forest.

Although he never played a senior match for Forest, Jim did collect a European Cup-winners medal as substitute goalkeeper with them in 1980.

Today, Montgomery says: "I've got all my old zest for the game even though I haven't played any first-team football for over 18 months. And because of this, many people believe I'm just happy enough to see out my days as an understudy."



"But I can tell you that this is far from the truth. I want to succeed as much this season as I did 20 years ago, and I've certainly not come back to Roker just to make up the numbers."

"Admittedly, Chris Turner has been doing well, but if a first-team chance comes along I'll be ready to grab it."

"In 1980-81, Sunderland's situation is similar to what it was in the latter part of the 1970's, when we were trying to establish ourselves as a constant First Division outfit. And once again I would like to play my part."

"Even in my heyday, Sunderland were in trouble when they were in the First Division. There were worries about in and out form and relegation threats which we'll be trying to avoid recurring."

Montgomery was six days short of his 18th birthday when he appeared in his first match for Sunderland, against Walsall at Roker Park in the Second Round of the Football League Cup.

This was in October, 1961, and at the start of the 1962-63 campaign, the youngster was the Wearsiders' first-team goalkeeper, remaining so for the next decade and a half.

During this time, Montgomery collected seven England Under-23 caps, but failed to realise his ambition to represent his country in a full international.

Yet he came close — in May, 1969, England's first-choice 'keeper Gordon Banks received a knock and was doubtful for a Wembley international against France.

However, Banks passed a late fitness test and Montgomery sat out the match on the England bench.

And sitting on benches is something that the Sunderland-born goalkeeper is hoping he won't be doing too frequently this term. Says Jim: "There is an air of purpose at Roker Park that makes me want to be active — I've only been back a few months but I feel it."

ABOVE: Jim Montgomery makes his miracle save against Leeds in the 1973 F.A. Cup Final when Sunderland dramatically upset the odds.

RIGHT: Chris Turner, the current goalkeeping favourite at Roker Park.

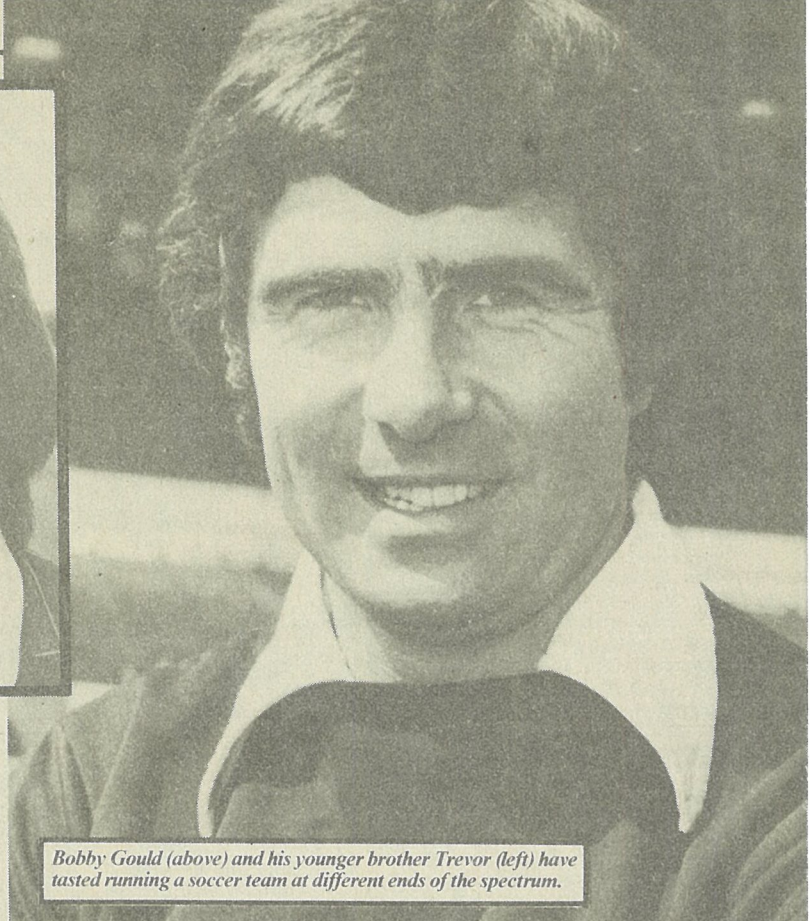
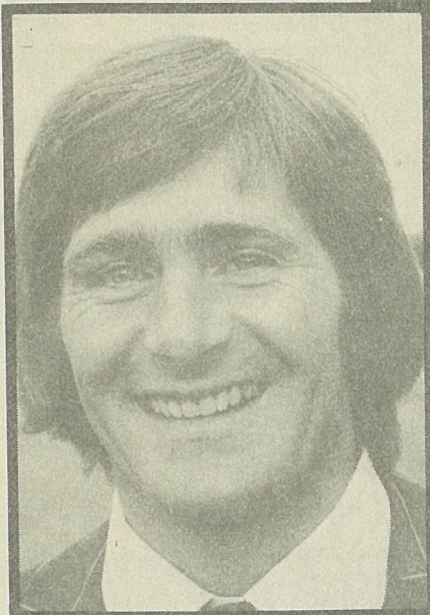
BOBBOY Gould and his brother Trevor have a few things in common at the moment. They are both running teams close to the top of the table, and are both loving every minute of it.

That's about where the similarities end. Bobby, at 33, is assistant-manager at Chelsea, chasing promotion to the First Division, a key figure at one of London's glamour clubs.

Trevor, three years younger, is manager of Southern League Bedford Town, firmly in the running for the Midland Division title.

While Bob runs his eye over potential £200,000 signings, Trevor has to make every last penny count!

"Life's much more difficult for me — Bob's got it cushy," laughs



Bobby Gould (above) and his younger brother Trevor (left) have tasted running a soccer team at different ends of the spectrum.

THE GOULD LIFE

Trevor, a man in the same jovial mould as his more famous brother.

"He can delegate jobs to other people, while I have to get them done myself. For instance we played at Merthyr the other week, which meant a long coach journey to Wales, and a pre-match meal to arrange.

"Bob would just ring a hotel, and order the number of meals for his players, and tell them what time he'd arrive. Chelsea would probably even stay the night.

"I had to help my wife make sandwiches and rolls to eat on the way — and get flasks of tea and soup ready.

"There are so many things like that to be done away from the playing side to make everything tick over on an even keel.

"The club has to be a family concern. The chairman's wife, for instance, washes all the kit every week."

Trevor's attention to detail earns him great respect from his brother. "I think it would be easier for him

to do my job than me to do his," says the man whose ability to score goals took him to more than half a dozen different League clubs.

"In the professional game we do have to bear finance in mind more and more, but Trevor has to work on an incredibly tight shoestring. He has brought some good young players through his youth scheme, and he knows what he is doing.

"The other thing I envy him is that all his players want to play. They are part-timers, turning up for the love of the game. A lot of

professionals these days don't know they are born.

"We have got people at Chelsea who have been attached to the club since they were 12 or 13, and they just don't have the same desire to play football.

"I think if someone made us swap jobs working with enthusiastic part-timers would be a big attraction to me.

Trevor still plays for Bedford, turning in some polished performances in the back-four.

"The irony is that Trevor was always a more skilful player than me," admits Bob. "The difference was that I really wanted to be a footballer, and he wasn't so sure.

"We both began our careers at Coventry, but when he drifted

from there to Northampton, and realised he would never be a big success in the professional game, he took a Government training course and became a bricklayer."

Trevor, now, would love the chance to try his hand at management at a higher level. Does he think he could swap jobs with his brother?

"It would be interesting. I don't see why I couldn't do it, because I've been brought up the hard way. Money is so limited that I have had to learn to attend to details.

"I think I could cope in Bob's job because I could delegate enough of the responsibility for doing the washing and making tea to be able to concentrate on coaching. And that's what I enjoy most."

Bobby Gould in his playing days, scoring for West Ham against Manchester City in 1973.



There have been two very sad occurrences over the past few months.

The official receiver has been called in with a view to winding up the affairs of Southport, and the demolition men have moved in to knock down the ground where Bradford (Park Avenue) played League football for 60 years.

It's not long ago, of course, since both were competing in the League, and these latest developments again focus the difficulties clubs have when they are forced out of the Football League.

Just look what has happened to all those who have lost League status over the last 20 years.

Accrington Stanley were one of the first to go, of course, desperate financial trouble forcing their resignation midway through the 1961-2 season.

It's ironic that the club who eventually replaced them, Oxford United, have had much more success than Stanley ever achieved in a much shorter period, while the original Stanley side just sunk into oblivion.

The old ground at Peel Park disappeared at the hands of the bulldozer donkeys years ago, of course, and scarcely a trace remains, short of a path running through a local park which also used to lead to the ground.

Strangely perhaps, the circumstances surrounding the demise of Gateshead are not dissimilar.

The club, who always lived in the shadow of Newcastle United, were somewhat surprisingly kicked out of the League in 1960, on the one and only occasion that they had to apply for re-election to the Fourth Division.

They were unlucky in that the club who pushed them out were Peterborough United, who had had a consistently astonishing set of results in non-League football and more importantly in the Cup.

It was a success everyone found hard to ignore and Gateshead were the ones to suffer.

They soldiered on for some time, became relatively more successful after changing their name to South

Shields, but reverted to the name Gateshead in 1977, on moving to the international stadium, more associated with Brendan Foster and athletics.

It was ten years after Gateshead's demotion before another club felt the cold shoulder of its big brothers.

Then it was Bradford (Park Avenue) who went cap-in-hand to the annual meeting of the League, and came away taking the first steps to disaster.

Bradford had achieved more in the game than any of the other clubs to lose membership. They

League.

Soon they had to go part-time, and while results were good the crowds inevitably dwindled and the club found it impossible to come to terms with this new way of life.

After three years they went into voluntary liquidation, and for the next five years the ground stood as a grim monument and a reminder of what happens to a club that hits hard times.

It was a magnet for vandals, repeated attempts by Bradford City and Bradford Northern, the famous Rugby League club, to

and their prospects are far from dim.

There was a gap of five years after the loss of Barrow before another change was made, and perhaps significantly it was another club from the northern tip of Britain, Workington, who were voted out this time.

Nobody, it seems, particularly likes making the journey to these outposts of the game, and Workington, of the frozen North were replaced by Wimbledon of the stockbroker South.

Perhaps Workington were not exactly surprised when they got the news. After all they had to apply for re-election to the Fourth Division five times, a figure exceeded only by Barrow, Southport and Hartlepool.

Like Barrow though Workington are a resilient lot and they have battled on in the Northern Premier League, retaining some of the players who remember the good old days of League football.

This season Workington reached the First Round of the Cup and pulled in their biggest crowd for something like six years for the tie with Carlisle United. Eventually they were beaten in a replay, but did not disgrace themselves.

A year after Wimbledon's admission came Wigan Athletic, and the ones to get the order of the boot this time were Southport.

Now this is a sad story, and the swiftest demise of all. After only two years in the Northern Premier League, the Haig Avenue club has found non-League life so unpalatable they've reached the verge of bankruptcy and it's expected that in the near future the club will go out of existence altogether.

Up in Scotland Third Lanark went the same way as Accrington Stanley had done in England, and virtually nothing remains of Cathkin Park, only memories.

We suppose one has to move with the times, and the newcomers have to be commended on grasping their opportunity in both hands in the main, but like old soldiers, old football clubs will never die — they just fade away.

The clubs that died

had played in the First Division, they had beaten teams like Arsenal and Manchester City in the Cup, and they had reared players of the quality of Len Shackleton, Billy Elliott and current England manager Ron Greenwood.

But in the late Sixties their record was so dismal they had to apply for re-election in three successive seasons, and the last time the League said no.

It was a tragedy in that Bradford possessed one of the best-appointed grounds in the lower Divisions, and by general consensus of opinion a far superior stadium to that of neighbours Bradford City.

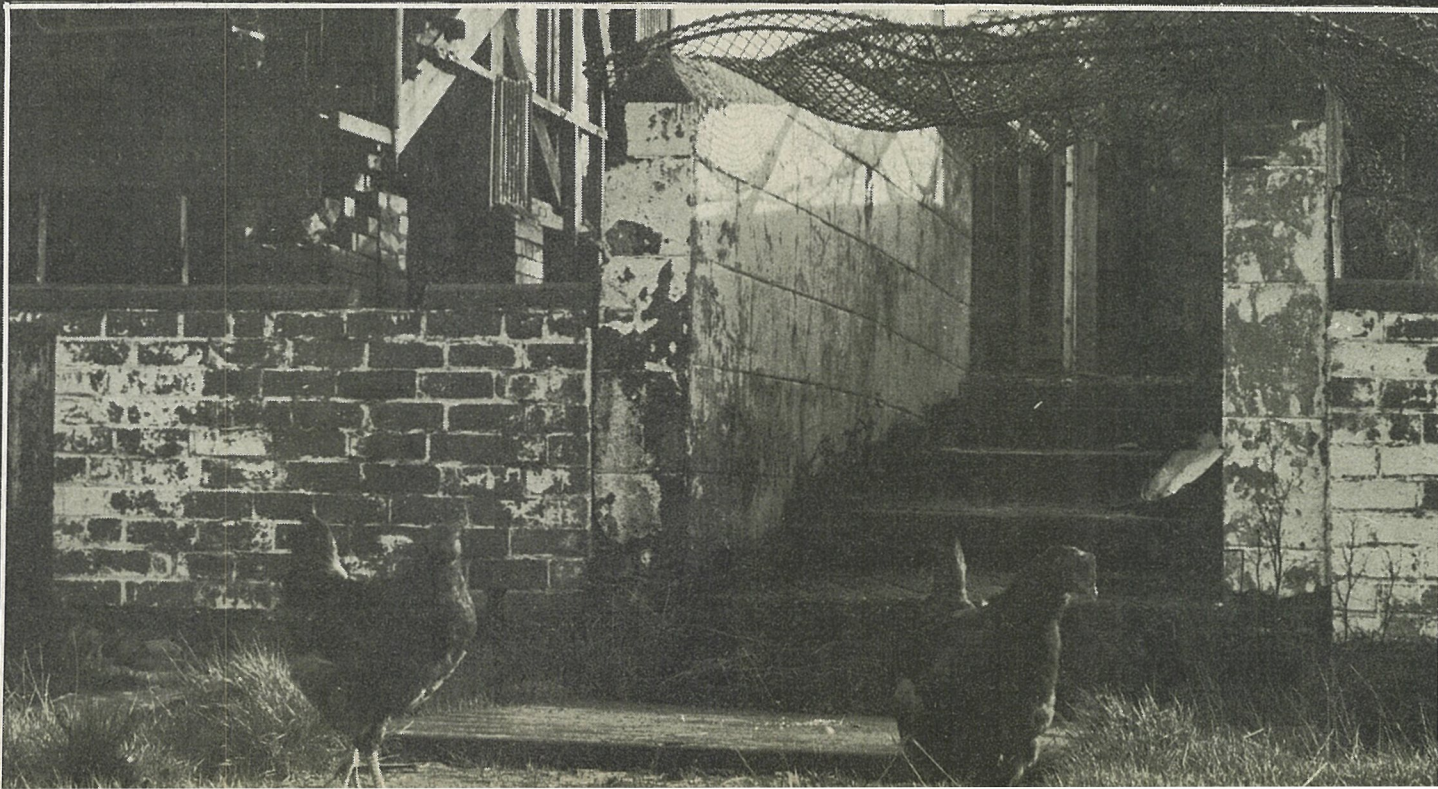
The club was obviously geared to life in the League, as they were to find to their ultimate cost when they entered the Northern Premier

move there were foiled and eventually the City Council gave authority for a demolition company to knock the place down.

Cambridge United replaced Bradford, and no one can deny that they have done distinctly better. Two years later, Barrow bit the dust making way for Hereford United.

And of all the clubs who have come a cropper Barrow have perhaps done best. They are currently in the Alliance Premier League, still playing at their Holker Street ground, which housed League football for so many years,

Peel Park, once the ground of Accrington Stanley, fell into disuse after the club were forced out of the League in 1962.



**ALAN BRAZIL (Ipswich) v.
ALAN HANSEN (Liverpool)**



THE PALACE REVOLUTION

CRYSTAL PALACE caused the biggest talking point of this — or any other season — when they sold out to Wimbledon a couple of months ago.

In a deal that rocked the world of football Palace chairman Ray Bloye sold his shares to Ron Noades, ambitious, thrusting chairman of the Fourth Division club.

Noades immediately resigned as Wimbledon chairman to become managing-director of Palace, taking several Dons directors with him and installing a new board at the Fourth Division club.

And the most revolutionary aspect of a deal that outraged all Palace and Wimbledon fans — and had the authorities watching events closely — was the ground sharing scheme planned to start next season.

Both clubs wanted to play at Selhurst Park on alternate Saturdays. But protests by Wimbledon fans forced Ron Noades to cancel the idea.

When that deal was finally clinched it ended weeks of speculation and uncertainty about the future of a Palace side reckoned not long ago to be the team of the 80's.

Young Talent

That title was bestowed on them after they swept out of the Second Division 18 months ago. And when you think of the exciting young talent they had in the team it did not seem an extravagant one.

Then the Board Room wheeling and dealing began to have an effect in the dressing room and Palace stunned football fans by allowing successful manager Terry Venables to leave and join London neighbours Queens Park Rangers.

With everyone wondering what on earth was going to happen to the club it was no surprise that spirits were at rock bottom as Palace slumped disastrously into a relegation fight they have no hope of winning.

They were as good as in the



Second Division when the takeover was finally settled — and the new regime swept through the club like a whirlwind.

OUT went manager Malcolm Allison, coaches Len Julians and Phil Holder and most of the Board.

IN came Dario Gradi — brought from Wimbledon as new manager of Palace.

IN came former Wimbledon player Mike Kelly as his assistant.

IN came Noades as managing-director and a string of new directors.

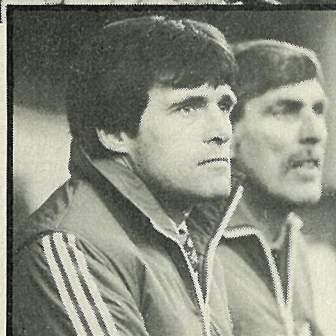
And IN came a flood of transfer requests from players eager to get away as soon as they could.

Clive Allen and Vince Hilaire repeated requests they had made earlier. Former England skipper Gerry Francis and Welsh internationals Peter Nicholas and Ian Walsh asked to join them on list, so did 'keeper David Fry.

Gradi can never be accused of not dealing decisively with this mass revolt. For he told them immediately they would all be allowed to leave — when it suited him.

"There's no point in trying to hang on to people who don't want to play for you. You'll never get the best out of them by forcing them to stay," he said.

"They will all be allowed to go if we get suitable offers. But we have got to be sensible and realistic about it. There's no way they will all go at the same time. I can't afford to have half a dozen players



walking out of the door together."

Gradi has without doubt walked into the toughest job in football and only the most churlish would not wish the 39-year-old the best of luck as he sets about it.

Born in Milan he came to England at an early age. He won England amateur caps with Isthmian League club Sutton United, before becoming reserve team coach at Chelsea, then assistant-manager at Derby.

Noades took him to Wimbledon three years ago to form a partnership that has flourished.

And it's clearly not everyone who could work with the new Palace supremo. For he insists in interfering with the manager's right to buy and sell players — something many top bosses would not stand for.

"Ron Noades wants to control how the cash is spent. And as he has made more money than me and been a bigger success in business than me I find that difficult to argue with," says Gradi.

"If I decide I want to buy a player I go to him and give him the name. Then he gets involved in arranging the fee with the other club.

"He knows better than me how much we can afford to pay — so I'm happy to leave the negotiations to him.

"And — most important of all — he has the good of the game, and his club, at heart. There is no way he will allow any organisation he controls to run into debt by spending more than they can afford.

"If more people followed that sensible approach the game would be in a much healthier condition.

"I've got tremendous respect for Ron and enjoy working with him. That's not to say we don't have our battles. We do."

Noades gave Gradi the security of a long term contract when he brought him over to manage

Ron Noades (right) with Ray Bloye. New manager Dario Gradi (left).

Palace. It runs until April, 1984 — and it will take all of that time to get Palace sorted out again.

"There's a massive rebuilding job to be done here. The club has got to be completely re-structured," claims Noades.

"The supply of young talent Palace were famous for has dried up. Outside the first team squad the quality of players we have here is very poor.

"There was such a shortage of teenage prospects that we have scrapped one of our two youth teams. It's going to take time to build all that up again."

Gradi will never concede that Palace have no chance of staying in the First Division this season. But deep down he must know they are not good enough and that relegation is a certainty.

It could also be a blessing, giving him time to sort things out and get the club moving upwards again.

Uncertainty

"The players were in a turmoil when I came here — and I can understand that. In view of all that had been going on I suppose they never knew what to expect from one day to the next," he says.

"But the first thing I did was to spell out that the uncertainty was now all over. We have a new Board, a new manager and assistant-manager and we must now all pull together to get the club out of trouble.

"There's been enough talk of take-overs, mergers, share-selling and what have you. The only talk I want to hear around the place from now on is about football.

"This is without doubt the toughest job I have ever taken on in my life. But it does not frighten me — if it did I would never have accepted it.


"It excites me. The more I think about it the more it excites me. There is a lot to be done here and if I can play a part in making Palace a force again I will feel I have achieved something."

And so will the Palace supporters. They are in revolt at the moment — but a few good results will soon pacify them.

Wish Dario Gradi luck as he goes about getting them.



A change of management did not alter the decision of Clive Allen (white) to obtain a transfer from Palace.



ARDILES Y VILLA EN EL
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR, MA-
RANGONI EN EL SUNDERLAND,
SABELLA EN EL LEEDS UNI-
TED. TODOS LOS RES-
PETAN, TODOS LOS ELO-
GIAN, TODOS LOS QUIEREN.
DESDE QUE ELLOS LLEGARON
ALGO CAMBIO...

EL SÁBADO INGLÉS ES ARGENTINO

Osvaldo Ardiles. Ricardo Villa. Alejandro Sabella. And Claudio Marangoni. The four men who planted the Argentine flag on First Division grounds in England this season.

Ossie, Ricky and Alex are established successes with Spurs and Leeds. But Claudio, after only 19 games with Sunderland, has headed back to Buenos Aires.

Before Claudio's departure, Argentina's top sports magazine *El Grafico* got the four players together in London to compare notes on their fortunes on this side of the Atlantic. And some of their comments throw an interesting light on why Ossie, Ricky and Alex are successes, while Claudio must be rated a failure...

VILLA: Hey, Claudio, you look like one of the crowd over here! Tall, blond, thin... you'd pass for English any day!

MARANGONI: Don't kid yourself! For me, this is a different world. And we've had it easier than you boys, because Monica and I spoke English before we arrived. But do you really like life here? For me it's just great. I wanted the experience of playing in the country where football was born, and I liked it immediately. I just wish things were like this in Argentina. Wouldn't it be fantastic if you could get 40,000 at every match? That everyone wanted to score goals and win games? That players worried about

... And then there were three

giving the fans entertainment? And that there were no dirty tricks when it got near promotion and relegation time?...

VILLA: That's true. That makes me remember the day at Racing when we lost a game and dropped into a dangerous position in the League. When I came out of the stadium I found a group of fans were trying to turn my car over — with my mother inside it. Anyway, your social life's going ok?

MARANGONI: Yes, knowing English makes it a lot easier. We go for dinner with friends, teammates...

ARDILES: And you, Alejandro? I saw you on TV the other week with your socks down! Don't you remember, they fine you for that back home?

SABELLA: Yes! You know what the manager does at Leeds? He lets you play with your socks down if you like — but he fines you if you get a shin injury! No, Viviana, myself and our little daughter are happy here. We've got a lot of good friends.

VILLA: But the real differences are out on the pitch, no? They've got a different philosophy here. The players say they really enjoy playing. There's none of the great dramas and tragedies that you get in Argentina.

SABELLA: You're dead right there. I shall never forget that day at

Sheffield United when we were relegated from the Second Division. After our last home game the fans applauded us so much that we had to do a lap of honour! Imagine that in Argentina! Anyway, I like the sporting spirit over here, and the willingness to play attacking football at all times. Even though man-for-man marking is beginning to creep into the First Division...

MARANGONI: Yes, at Sunderland we're expected to mark man-for-man. I think that's why we have problems against ball-playing opponents. I don't know if you boys had the same experience as me, but when I arrived I just didn't see the ball at all. The players and the ball just went buzzing past me. The change of rhythm was terrible.

ARDILES: Do you really think there's so much difference physically?

MARANGONI: Perhaps it's a question of changing your mentality, but it seems like a different world. I remember at San Lorenzo I was always first in our sprints and laps of the track. But here they just left me standing, and even trying my hardest, I just couldn't keep up. They all beat me without even trying!

ARDILES: I didn't notice so much difference. At Spurs I think only about four players are genuinely faster than me.

SABELLA: I go along with Claudio here. When I first arrived in Shef-

How El Grafico showed Ardiles, Marangoni, Villa and Sabella by the River Thames in London.

field in 1978 I had terrible problems to adapt to the faster rhythm. Now I feel that I've succeeded, but I won't pretend that it was easy. In this style of football there's no rest at all during the 90 minutes, and it's not like Argentina where the boss can substitute you if you run out of steam. Having only one sub means that you just have to carry on, even if you've run out of steam.

ARDILES: That reminds me of my most treasured memory since I've been in England. We drew 1-1 at home with Manchester United in the Cup, and in the replay at Old Trafford our 'keeper was injured soon after half-time. So one of our best players, Glenn Hoddle, had to go in goal. Then I scored our winning goal just before the end of extra time. What a moment!

SABELLA: Going back to your problems, Claudio, I've had to learn to be much more mobile — and to think faster. At River Plate when I got the ball lused to have about 20 yards to stop and think. Here if you stop for a second, you've lost the ball. And not only in the First Division. It was just the same at Sheffield United.

MARANGONI: Yes, I've just got to adapt to a game that seems to be played ten times faster than Argentine League football. If I can't adapt, I may as well get the plane back to Buenos Aires...

A CHANGE is as good as a rest, goes the old saying, and nowhere does this adage apply more appropriately than in the cut and thrust of the British transfer market.

Players could be forgiven for believing that their careers are drawing to an abrupt halt when they find themselves playing in the reserves or sitting unhappily on the substitute's bench for weeks.

Yet given the opportunity to show their talents with a new club, many players respond enthusiastically to the challenge to lift their careers from the scrap-heap.

This season's League campaign has been littered with examples of players grabbing headlines after leaving clubs where opportunities were limited.

Manchester City have gained a fine reputation for breathing new life into the lives of fading stars.

Rejuvenated by John Bond's midas touch, City have rescued the careers of Gerry Gow, Tommy Hutchison and Bobby McDonald, three players whose futures

looked bleak in the early stages of this season.

Hutchison's future at Coventry looked more secure than McDonald's only because he was commanding a first team place at Highfield Road and was club captain. Poor McDonald, once believed to be Scotland's answer to their left back problem, was in the reserves with little hope of gaining promotion.

Hutchison, arguably the best ball juggler in the First Division, and McDonald were dispatched North to help aid Manchester City's revival after Malcolm Allison's departure.

Their experience has worked wonders at Maine Road where their experience has been utilised to help City's young stars make the progress their talents threaten.

Gerry Gow, another player close to winning his first Scotland cap a few seasons ago, also fed much needed experience into City's cause when Bond swooped for him at Bristol City.

Now, Tom Ritchie, Gow's former clubmate and free-scoring

striker when Bristol City were playing in the First Division, has joined Sunderland, striving to establish themselves with the elite.

Ritchie, struggling for form and happier times at City, could provide the goals the North-East club desperately need if they are to avoid dropping back into the Second Division.

Terry Venables made the same charge into the transfer market as Bond when he took control at QPR in a sudden overnight move from Crystal Palace last autumn.

Simon Stainrod, Oldham's highly promising young striker, was captured for a bargain £275,000, and Palace trio John Burridge, Terry Fenwick and Mike Flanagan were also installed at Loftus Road by their old boss.

The success of Venables' buying and selling is best measured by the marked progress the West London club has made in the Second Division since Tommy Docherty's departure.

Gerry Armstrong and Peter Taylor often wondered which

TRANSFER HITS- and misses



Goalkeeper Perry Digweed, signed by Brighton from Fulham.



scrapheap they might finish on when they became confined to Tottenham's reserves. After all, Armstrong was good enough to lead Northern Ireland's attack, so why not Spurs?

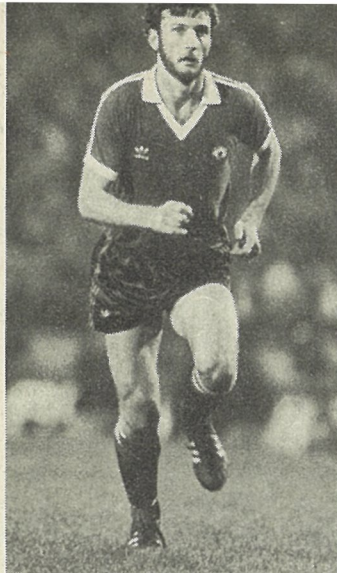
Taylor was also mystified by limited opportunities. The former England winger had had a serious injury but could still run the legs off most First Division defenders.

Keith Burkinshaw, their manager thought otherwise, offering them only an occasional first team outing.

Watford's manager Graham Taylor had long admired Armstrong's muscular goal-power and decided to buy him. Meanwhile, Jimmy Bloomfield's quest for class players to boost Orient's promotion challenge in the Second Division queued for Taylor and got his man.

The result of the transactions? A new lease of life for both players. Dave Watson started the season with little hope of winning a first team place. His talents as a centre-half were maturing rapidly but opportunities were limited.

Not THE Dave Watson of England and Southampton fame? No. Dave Watson of Liverpool reserves, good but not good enough to unsettle The Reds'



England centre-half Phil Thompson, Bob Paisley's first choice pivot.

Ken Brown, Norwich's manager, spotted Watson's potential and swooped quickly to try to stiffen a Canaries defence leaking goals in most games.

Whether Watson fulfills Brown's hopes is a question to be decided but no professional turns down the chance of first team football in the First Division if he has paraded his talents before minute reserve team gates.

Brighton's fans were chanting "There's only one Perry Digweed" long before the end of the former England Youth and Fulham reserve goalkeeper had finished making his home debut for The Seagulls against Tottenham at the end of January.

Perry's delighted with a move which gives him long awaited League action after playing second fiddle to Gerry Peyton at Craven Cottage.

His first game for Brighton, at West Bromwich Albion, caused some amusement at The Hawthorns. On hearing Digweed's name over the tannoy, Albion boss Ron Atkinson said: "Oh yes, and I've got Percy Thrower playing at centre-forward."

Digweed's flawless performance certainly silenced big Ron.

Alan Curtis and Alan Mayes, two strikers with sharply contrasting backgrounds, are also hoping to brighten their new clubs.

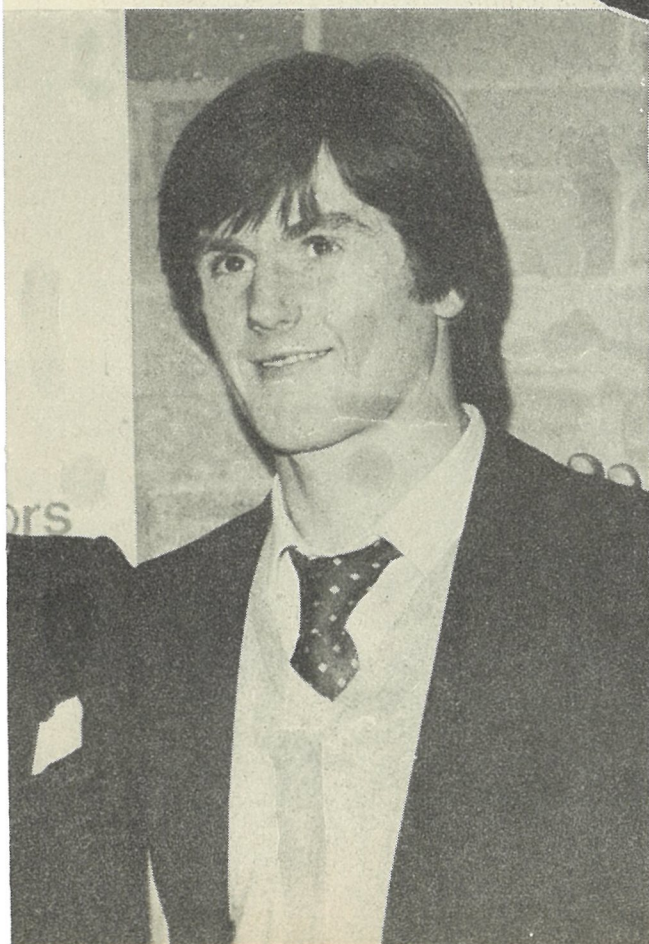
Curtis has gone back to Swansea after struggling to make the grade on limited opportunities at Leeds United and Mayes, the former Watford, Northampton (on loan) and Swindon striker, has been bought to pep Chelsea's promotion challenge this season.

Some transfers are a disaster.

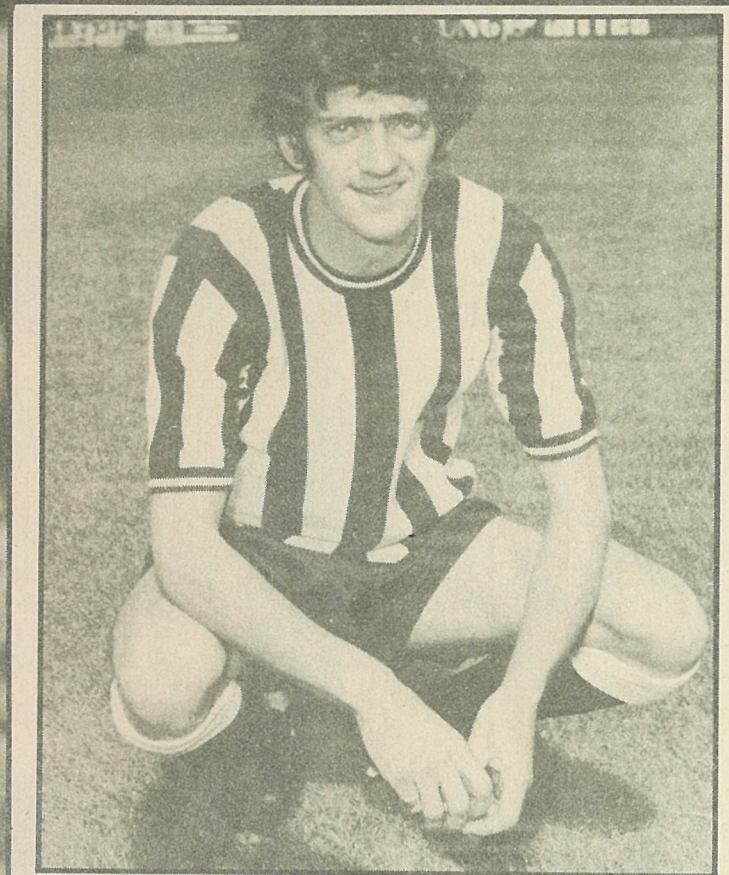
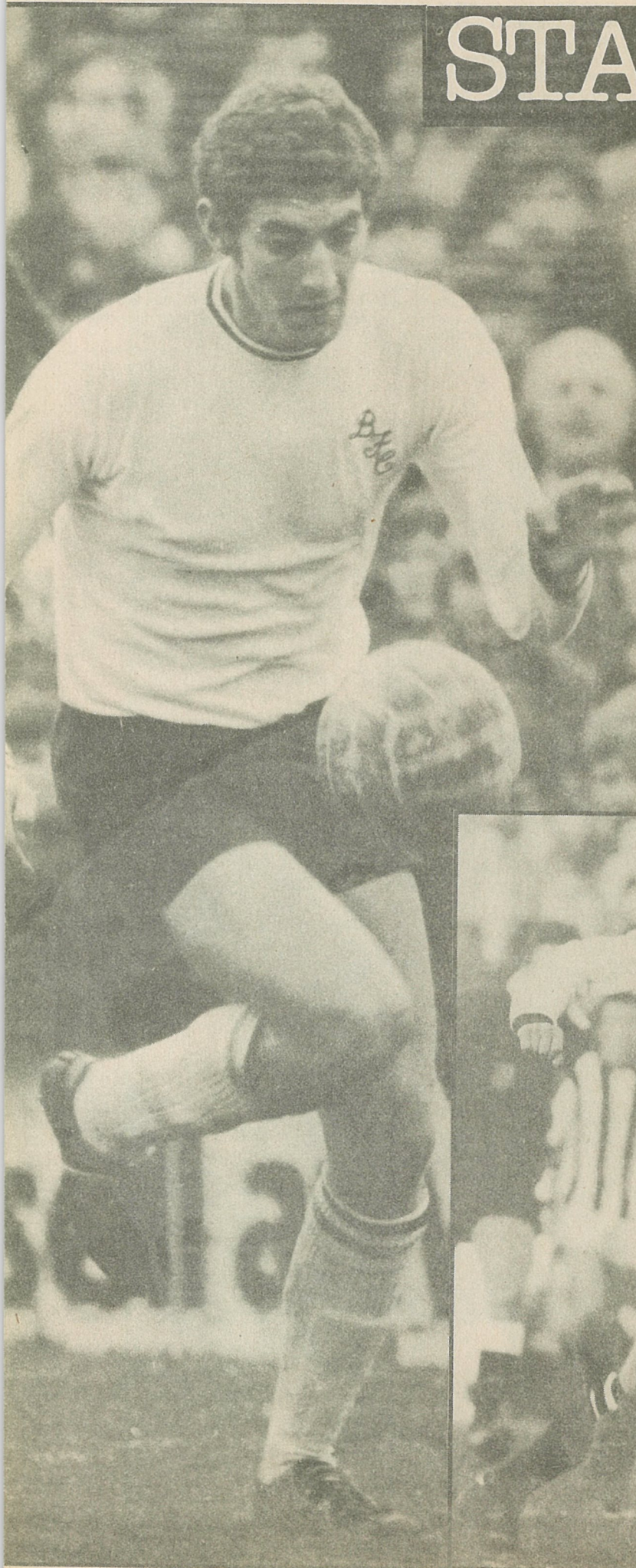
Garry Birtles has struggled to find the form at Manchester United he displayed in helping hoist Nottingham Forest to the European Cup crown, and Paul Barron and Clive Allen, transferred South of the River Thames from Arsenal to Palace, have endured the unhappiest season of their careers.

Fortunately, for every victim of the transfer system, there are many successes.

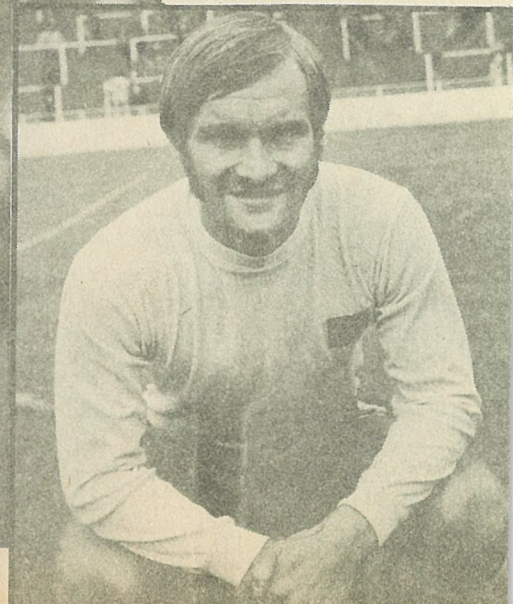
Q.P.R. boss Terry Venables welcomes new signings Mike Flanagan and Terry Fenwick to Loftus Road. One player whose move did not work out so successfully was Paul Barron (right), who has been unable to produce his best Arsenal. Gary Birtles (top) has not been a big success at Manchester United.



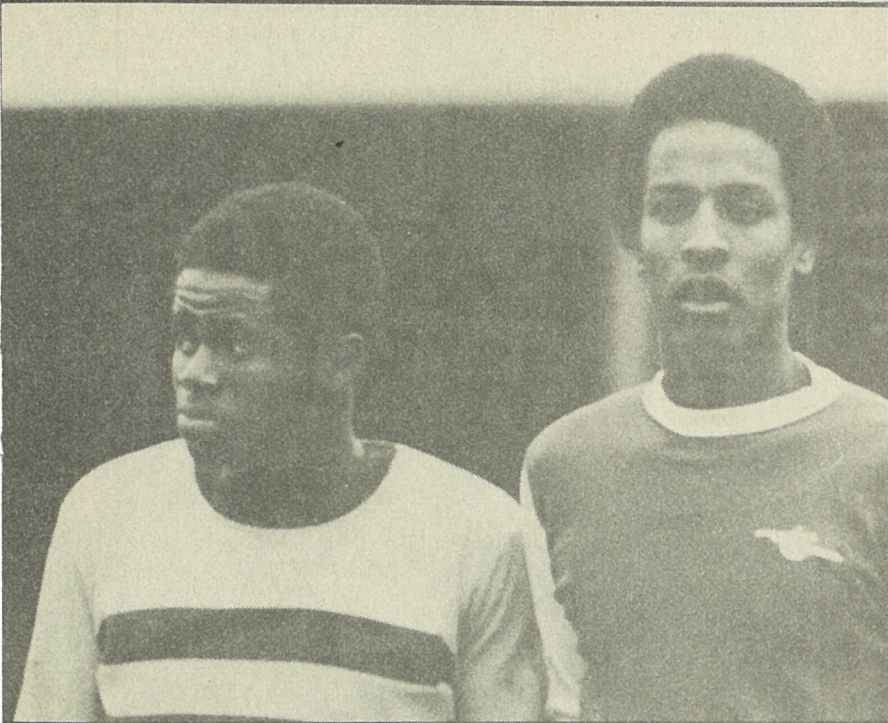
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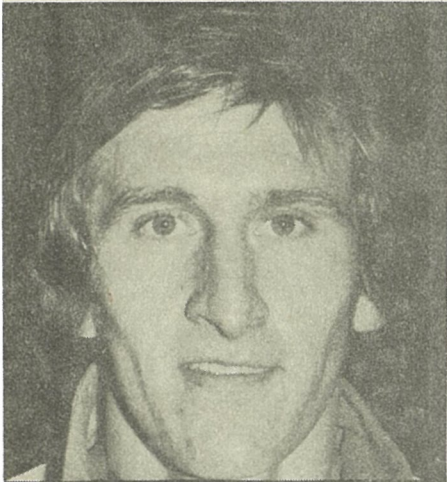
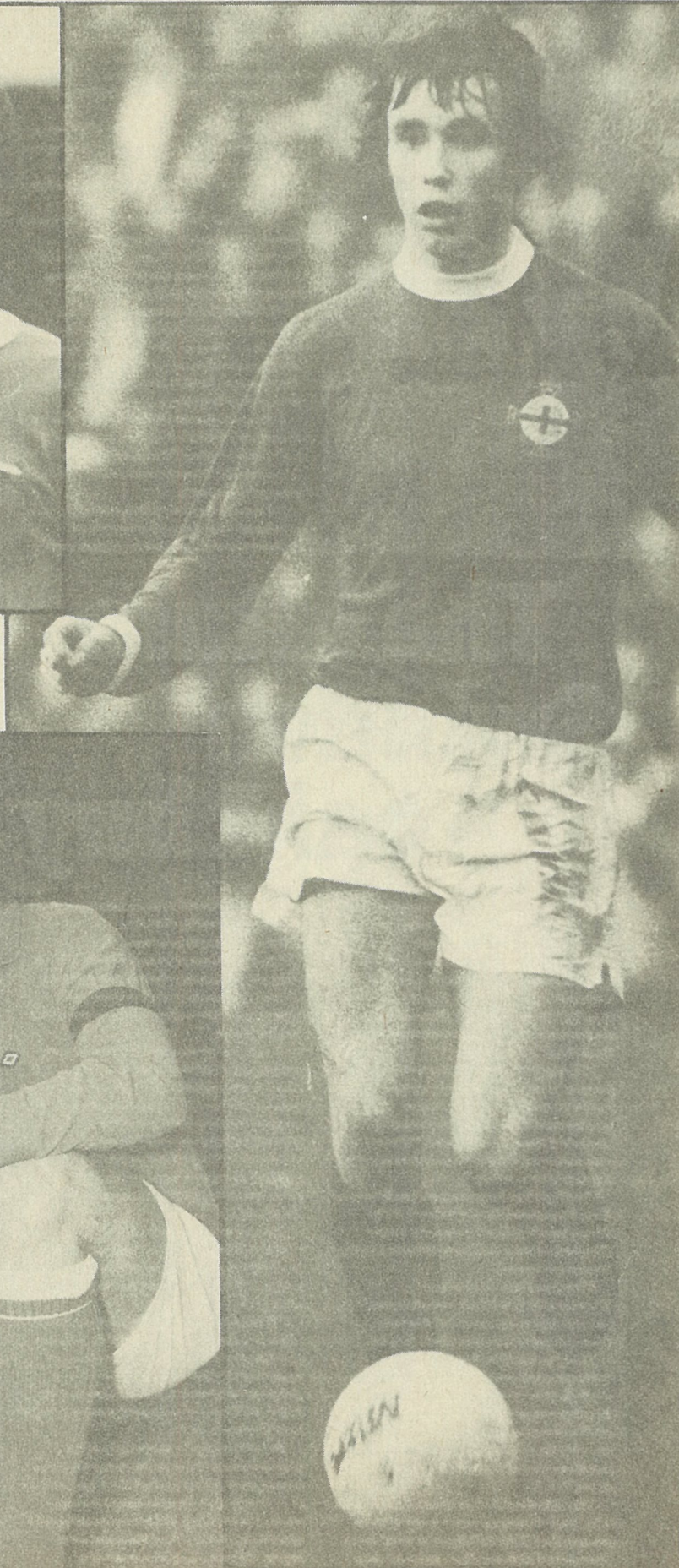
The changing face of football. Martin Dobson (far left) has swapped his Burnley shirt for an Everton one and returned to Turf Moor since this picture was taken. But Terry Hibbitt (above) has remained loyal to Newcastle in the ten years since this portrait. Asa Hartford (left) went from WBA to Manchester City before joining his present club Everton, while Mick Mills (below) has changed a bit since his early days at Ipswich



THEY WERE YOUNG



Brendon Batson in Arsenal colours (above). He played only ten League games before joining WBA. A young Sammy McIlroy on his debut for Northern Ireland (right). Sammy has since captained his national side. Tommy Hutchison has had spells at Coventry and Manchester City since his days at Blackpool (below.).



Leighton Phillips started his career at Cardiff (above). A youthful Phil Parkes before his big-money move to West Ham (right).





The future Swindon can't buy

JOHN TROLLOPE has stepped into the manager's role at Swindon Town with the finest qualifications.

His all-time League record of 770 appearances for the Wiltshire club? That will certainly help a lot. His exemplary loyalty? Beyond doubt. But even these two outstanding references are trumped by a third.

"Having been youth team manager for two years I know our youngsters better than anyone. And those youngsters have to be the future of Swindon Town," he states. "There is no way in the world that we can compete in the transfer market."

Trollope has been as good as his word. Two 18-year-olds, right-back John Henry and midfielder prospect Brian Hughes, were quickly established in the first team squad.

Hard on their heels there is 16-year-old Paul Rideout who could become the most exciting County Ground attacker since Don Rogers.

This former England Boys international confidently snatched his early first team chances and manager Trollope says: "He has a very special ability. I expect him to be in and out of the side for a while as he finds his feet — but there is a striker of real promise there."

The talent of Rideout was one reason why Swindon supporters were able to accept the £200,000 departure of Alan Mayes to Chelsea. They have always given enthusiastic support to

locally-produced players... and appreciate a manager who proclaims: "Swindon Town is my life."

Trollope's standards are those he grew up with at Swindon. When the club celebrated its most famous moment in football, beating Arsenal in the 1969 League Cup Final at Wembley, the heroic team was packed with players such as himself, Rod Thomas and Don Rogers who were produced locally.

Before them, there were matchwinners such as Mike Summerbee, Bobby Woodruffe and Ernie Hunt.

"Those great years of the 1960's are what we must look for again," he insists. "It is the only way for clubs like Swindon. We have to find and develop our own."

"From my background with the youth team, I can see a new future for Swindon. Behind Henry, Hughes and Rideout, there are three or four more teenagers coming along nicely."

With his bold, committed policy towards young players and a refusal to look back at attitudes that have now disappeared from football, John Trollope looks the perfect manager for struggling Swindon.

"Yes, the motivation has transformed drastically from when I first kicked a ball for Swindon 20 years ago as a 17-year-old. Freedom of contract has changed so much."

"The days are over forever when you went out and played for the sheer enjoyment and honour of representing

your club. Now the one certain way to command loyalty is to buy it — otherwise the player moves on."

"I don't blame them for that. This is just a symptom of the times we live in. There is a great deal of money in the game and the modern players are right to go after it."

Trollope's promotion as manager came as Swindon dived into the danger-area of the Third Division. It was a decline which caught everyone by surprise after a brilliant 1979-80 when they thundered into the Semi-Finals of the League Cup, the Fourth Round of the F.A. Cup and were in the thick of the promotion battle all the way until the final weeks.

Manager Bob Smith became a victim of that slide and, from the moment he took charge, Trollope became a rallying point. "The first priority was to rebuild the spirit."

"There cannot be much wrong with players who beat Stoke and Arsenal in the League Cup before just losing to eventual winners Wolves; who beat Luton and forced Spurs to a replay in the F.A. Cup; who chased promotion so hard for so long."

It isn't always easy for a mighty player to switch from dressing room to manager's office — and Trollope admits it — but if there is one man who can make that rolling Wiltshire countryside throb with football excitement once again, it has to be this greatest of clubmen.

PHIL HAWKER, Birmingham City's 18-year-old exciting left-back prospect, was all set to join the England Youth Party at Lille-shall when he received an urgent 'phone call from team-manager Jim Smith.

"The boss told me that he wanted me to join the first team squad at Blues," he says. "Then I had to wait several days to see if I was going to be in the side or not."

"On the Tuesday afternoon the manager said that I would be making my debut in our night match at home to Nottingham Forest. We won 2-0 and it was great. I really enjoyed it. Certainly it's been my

terest. Even when I was just a kid he'd turn up to watch me play."

"The St. Andrews crowd have been great to me. I think it's because they like to see youngsters appear in the side. If I make a mistake, they're very understanding."

"I love the big match atmosphere. However, I must admit that I did suffer from pre-match nerves when we travelled to Anfield for our League Cup-tie against Liverpool. But once I was out on the pitch soaking in the roar from the crowd and getting my first touch,

HOT-SHOT HAWKER

biggest thrill up to date."

Hawker, born in Solihull, seems to have sprung from nowhere to fill the left-back berth caused by an injury to England Under-21 star Mark Dennis.

"It all started when I left school at 16," he says. "I think they watched me when I was playing for my District and County and also for my Sunday League side Woodbank Albion in the Central Warwickshire League."

"I was invited to St. Andrews for training and to play in a match for them. After that they asked me to sign apprentice forms. From there I graduated through the club's youth scheme."

"Stoke and Luton were interested, but I chose Blues. The main reason was that I didn't particularly relish the idea of moving from the Birmingham area, although I must say that I was very impressed with Stoke."

Hawker made 17 Football Combination appearances last season and this term played seven reserve team games before his big chance came.

"I suppose it was a gigantic jump," he says, "but things happened so quickly. All the players were helping me out and I felt fairly confident. To me First Division football is very hard physically. There's a lot more running involved and you have to be much stronger."

"The game's played at a far greater pace and things develop rapidly, so you have to be aware all the time. I have felt the pressure and I feel that's something you are always under, especially if the team is losing. But the main thing is to keep on fighting through."

Hawker, tall and slim and naturally left footed, is the kind of full-back who loves to attack. He also possesses a rocket shot to back up his forward approach claim.

He puts Pele as one of the players he loves to watch and Coventry City's teenage winger Peter Bodak as his most formidable opponent.

"I think Colin Todd is fantastic as well," he says. "He reads the game and, to be quite honest, I feel he should be in the England team now. He makes it easier for me, so too does striker Don Givens."

"My father has been the inspiration. He's always taken a lot of in-



then I felt fine. In many ways my first trip to Anfield was a bitter disappointment because we lost 3-1."

Hawker, sensible and intelligent, realises full well that he could be dropped for a spell. "Obviously, I wouldn't like that," he says. "If it should happen, then I would just have to keep working and trying to get back into the side."

"I've a lot to learn and there's a long way to go. I know it's going to be very competitive at Blues for the number three spot with Mark Dennis because he's such an outstanding player."

And with Hawker improving with every game, then that's a selection problem for Jim Smith to dwell and delight upon as he continues to build Birmingham City's brightest future for years.

NO-NONSENSE Bertie Auld has been called a fair old variety of names during his football career ranging from 'Little Caesar' to 'Little So-And-So'.

The cigar-chewing Auld, rarely seen without a giant-sized Havana clenched between his teeth, juts his jaw out challengingly to people who do not believe his ideas and ideals.

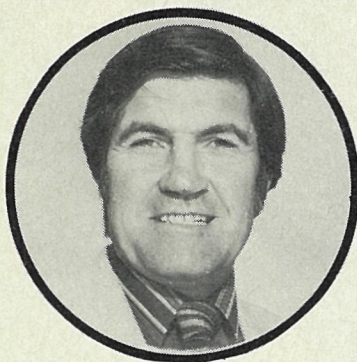
His critics may have been puzzled over his decision during the season to leave Premier Division Partick Thistle, then sitting proudly fourth from the top and trying for a place in Europe, to go to First Division Hibs, a team struggling to find form, confidence and direction.

"It was a heartbreaking decision," says Auld. "I really mean that. It wasn't easy to pack up everything and leave Firhill, I can tell you.

"I had good years with Thistle, the team I used to support when I was a kid in Maryhill.

"I used to watch all their games while my mates might have gone to see Celtic or Rangers.

"But I knew the time was right to move on. Hibs were once a



big-time club and it's my aim to get them back to the top again. It will be hard work, but I've got a fair old appetite for the commodity."

Auld and his assistant manager Pat Quinn, who was also his No. 2 at Firhill, have signed five-year contracts with the Easter Road club and now everything is geared for the future.

"I didn't sign a contract when I first came here," says Auld. "I wanted the chairman Tom Hart to have some time to see what I could

HIBS BANK ON BERTIE

or couldn't do.

"He has played fair to me and I intend to do the same by him. I didn't have a contract with Partick Thistle, but I was happy to sign one with Hibs. I'm confident everything will work out in the future."

Auld swept into Easter Road like a whirlwind, making changes in the team, the training, the policy and the attitude.

He gave youngsters their opportunity, he freed others who didn't match up to his demands and he wasn't slow to shell out £60,000 for Celtic right-back Alan Sneddon and another £35,000 for

Montrose forward Garry Murray.

"I want players who want to play for Hibs," says Auld. "They must be completely dedicated to the cause of this club. That's the way it must be..."

Hibs, frankly, have been a shambles for the past year or so. Their form in the Premier Division before their predictable relegation was nothing short of lamentable. Their £2,000-per-game gamble on George Best was a frantic last throw of the dice that failed.

They haven't taken a gamble on Auld. He is a sure-fire winner. And he intends to keep on proving that in years to come. Lucky Hibs fans!

When Gordon Wallace, that prolific goal scorer in Scottish soccer, took over as manager of Raith Rovers almost two years ago, the club was facing the prospect of relegation from the First Division.

Now as a Stark's Park revival takes place the Kirkcaldy club are favourites for promotion to the Premier Division along with Hibs.

And 37-years-old Wallace one of the new breed of young football managers in the country, believes that a 3-3 draw at Berwick at the end of last season has helped them to get to the top this year.

He explains: "If we had won that last game then we would have finished up third in the First Division. But by losing a point against Berwick we slipped to fifth.

"By dropping these two places in

lost at Falkirk — the next they beat Hibs at Stark's Park!

Raith won 2-0. Just as important for the little Fife club they did so with 10,000 fans watching them. That's the new capacity for the Stark's Park ground and the kick-off was held up to let all of the fans in.

Wallace admitted: "It's hard to remember the last time we had a crowd that size. We have been building gradually over the season but it has been difficult and the best crowd we had before the Hibs' game was on New Year's Day when the local derby with Dunfermline saw 5,000 in the ground.

"This was a big breakthrough, especially as it came right on top of that Falkirk defeat. It showed that the people are beginning to believe

that League. All of them, at some time, have run into trouble.

"The team which has done best of all the teams who have won promotion under the new set-up has been St. Mirren.

"They went up with a crop of young players all coming good at the same time. They had teething worries, too, but they have stayed there and they made Europe this season. But everyone else knows that the jump from one League to another is going to bring extra problems."

Wallace stresses, however, that the club has cash in the bank following the sale of striker Andy Harrow to Luton for £80,000.

"That wiped out Raith's small overdraft and left them with money to spare." As Wallace also is quick

to point out the overheads for the club are relatively small.

"Next season when the clubs keep their home gates," he says, "we could be OK. The games against the Old Firm — four of them at home — would give us a tidy sum to start with so we don't have too many worries about getting up. Certainly no more than any of the others who have gone in front of us..."

Whether Wallace's wonders go up or not the sweetest music he must have heard was the chant from the crowd as Hibs' fans left the ground in that Championship clash — "We are the Champions", they sang. When was the last time these Fife fans were able to claim that, even though they were a few months early.

WALLACE'S WONDERS

the table there was no great pressure on us when this season started.

"I believe that in the First Division the obvious pressure is on the two teams relegated from the Top Ten and on the side which just missed going up the previous year.

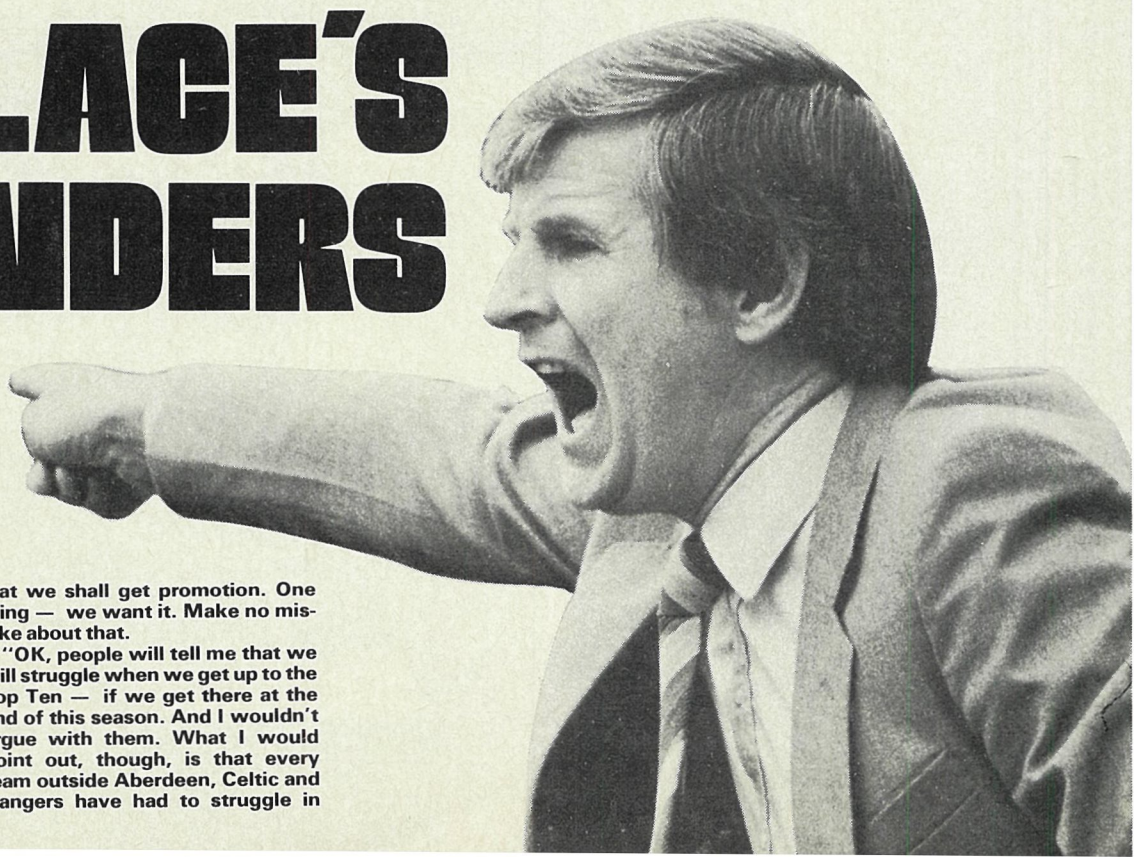
"This didn't affect us. And so we kicked-off without feeling any pressure.

"This year we had to cope with pressure when we went three months without a defeat. It is hard, because you suddenly find that players are trying to protect an unbeaten record rather than play their normal game."

The best bonus of all for Wallace, of course, was his part-time team's comeback after that long run without defeat ended. One week they

that we shall get promotion. One thing — we want it. Make no mistake about that.

"OK, people will tell me that we will struggle when we get up to the Top Ten — if we get there at the end of this season. And I wouldn't argue with them. What I would point out, though, is that every team outside Aberdeen, Celtic and Rangers have had to struggle in



Throughout the world, there is nobody who excites the football fans more than the men whose job it is to put the ball in the net. Theirs is the most glamorous and sought after talent in the game, and for those who are at the top of the profession the rewards of fame and fortune are endless. Here we spotlight some of the world's top goalhunters.

Kenny Dalglish (left), the big threat whether playing for Scotland or Liverpool. European Footballer of the Year Karl-Heinz Rummenigge (white shirt) in action against Belgium during the European Championship Final. England's star striker Tony Woodcock (below) in action.



THE GOA





ALHUNTERS

The leader of the Brazilian attack goes under the quaint name of Socrates (left). But there is nothing philosophical about his approach to netting the goals. Diego Maradona (right), the most valuable player in the world and Argentina's main hope for the 1982 World Cup.



MICK Speight's transfer from Sheffield United to Blackburn went through just before the start of this season — six years to the day after the move had first been suggested.

Speight was all set to start his 14th season with the Bramall Lane club, when Howard Kendall moved in to clinch the signing in a £65,000 deal.

The extraordinary story of Mick Speight's years at Sheffield is both illuminating and intriguing.

For instance, the midfielder could by now have been a key member of a First Division side battling for success in Europe and in our League Championship title race.

Who wanted him? None other than Ipswich Town, about five years ago. But Sheffield United were still in the First at the time, and the club refused to release Speight. So the chance

Speight's transfer saga

disappeared.

Since then, however, United's fortunes have slumped. From finishing sixth in the First Division a few years ago, United had dropped into mediocrity in the Third Division and, yet again, missed out on promotion last season.

Despite that, Speight was set to have another go with United at

climbing back into Division Two — until Blackburn made their move.

And now? Well, Speight is playing as well as ever with his new club — a club which has high hopes of going back to Division One.

"It's all been a bit remarkable," says Micky Speight, one of the game's honest workers. "But I've

got to admit, the change of club — did me good.

"The day I left Sheffield, it was like getting a little bit of youth back. I'm 28 now and it was like a big weight being lifted off my shoulders."

Howard Kendall saw enough of Speight last season, when Rovers were winning promotion from the Third, to convince him he would be a valuable acquisition if Blackburn were promoted. So he got his man and hasn't regretted the move. Neither has Speight.

"The move was right for me and I've enjoyed it; it really has given me a new lease of life," says Speight. "I'm really enjoying it. We've got a fine midfield here with players like Howard Kendall and Duncan McKenzie. Maybe I add a bit of experience, too, to help some of the younger lads in other areas of the side.

"I'd always wanted to work with Howard Kendall because I've known a lot about him. When the opportunity came along, I didn't hesitate."

Speight believes Blackburn can climb back into the First Division. But admits they may need a couple more players to strengthen the overall squad. But "We've got one vital quality and that is the fact that we're hard to beat.

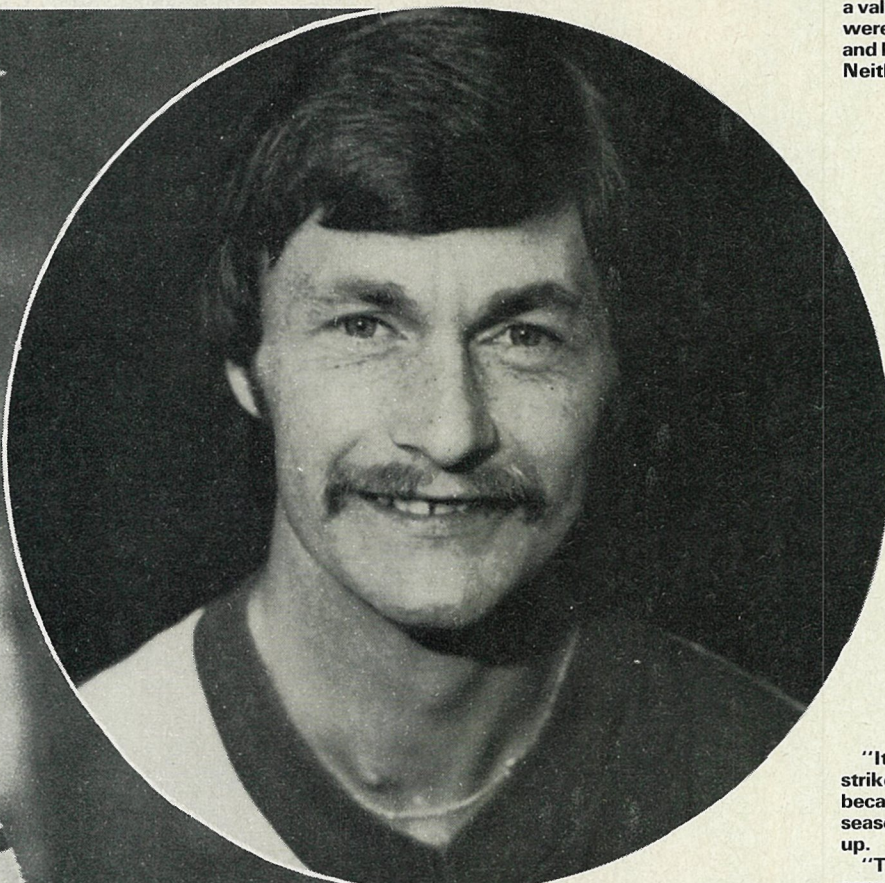
"It's no good just having two strikers to rely on for all your goals because at some stage of any season, those front men will dry up.

"They're bound to struggle at some stage and that's where you must have goals coming from midfield men, full-backs and even central defenders. Liverpool prove that time and again — look how often a player comes from a position other than striker, to score for them.

"Howard Kendall has a lot to do with being hard to beat, as a side. When he arrived here, Blackburn had lots of good players but probably not the right method. He had the method and got them promotion.

"What makes him so special? He's totally honest and he has remarkable enthusiasm for the game. He still wants to compete for every ball, just as much as the keenest youngster."

Speight might be considered at the climax of his career. Certainly, the next two or three seasons, should see Howard Kendall and Blackburn get the best out of him. If they do that in the First Division, no one will be happier than Mick Speight.



Speight in his Sheffield United days (left). Top of the Second Division action as Blackburn take on promotion favourites West Ham at Upton Park this season (above).





LOOKING back, I've come a long way since I received my first football honour — a five-a-side winner's medal from the hands of the great Jackie Milburn, who was then player-manager of Linfield.

Sometimes, I ask myself if I've covered that long road too quickly and whether some of the moves were badly timed. Only the future can truly answer that question.

I had no burning ambition, as a youngster, to be a professional footballer. Like every Ulster lad, I was mad keen on playing the game at school, with the Boys' Brigade and that sort of thing.

It was only when I was chosen for the Northern Ireland team that I asked myself could I make the grade as a professional.

Ipswich gave me the chance to answer that question, through that wise manager Bobby Robson, who gave me the time to develop.

Perhaps I left Ipswich too quickly but a chance to go to Everton was a great temptation to an ambitious youngster. Ipswich were in fourth place, only one behind the Mersey-siders, but Everton are a household name, with a roll of honour of great players, 'Dixie' Dean, Tommy Lawton and others, second to none.

At the time, third place in the First Division looked better than fourth, and I went.

Maybe I left Everton too quickly, too, when things did not work out as I hoped. Suddenly I could not command a regular first team place, a fate which befell about half a dozen internationals, who played alongside me in the Central League side. But that was little consolation.

I still believe that a real footballer



must play in a first team. Even the first team of a Second Division side is better than the reserves of a club from Division One.

So I took a step down the ladder and joined Millwall. I know now that I had taken an important step forwards rather than downwards, in the long term.

With Millwall, I had the new experience of leadership — as captain and I did a lot with the youngsters in the team.

I suppose it was about that time that I knew that my life lay in football and that, when my playing days were over, it meant a future in coaching or management.

At the time, the job seemed one of bits and pieces. Each day, at Tranmere, I am thankful for those bits and pieces.

I continued to move downwards, when I left Millwall for Swindon. This time I went as player/coach, not far from the role that 'Wor Jackie' filled, when he gave me that first medal.

This was more experience in the bank and I had experienced football at all levels from First to Third Division. This saved me from the abrupt transition, which many players have to make, from playing First Division football to managing a Fourth Division club. It helps you develop perspective if you have moved through the ranks.

In spite of that seven year apprenticeship at Swindon, every day still brings surprises at the sort of things a manager is expected to do. I learn some new lesson every day, not least in running the office side of the job.

But I see it as a challenge and I

In Bobby Robson I saw a great coach and tactician as well as a man with a very canny eye in the transfer market. George Petchey showed me that management is about personal relations. You can be a footballing genius but, if you can't communicate and get on with people, you are no use to anybody.

In fellow Irishman, Danny Blanchflower, I saw flair and an undying attacking spirit. Danny was a mass of creative enthusiasm. He commanded respect and men followed him naturally.

By contrast, Billy Bingham was a great organiser, with meticulous attention to detail. Danny Williams at Swindon will always be remembered by me as a cheerful personality.

Many people are cheerful when the wind is in their favour. Danny was cheerful on the darkest day. That's a priceless asset in the ups and downs of football.

What can I offer at Tranmere? I suppose that I could be a mixture of

The manager of Tranmere Rovers looks back over his playing career and assesses his new role

BRYAN HAMILTON'S 101 JOBS

all the best qualities that I have mentioned. But that would mean that I would be a superman and I'm certainly not that. I can't offer miracles.

I can't even offer anything novel, because there are no miracles in soccer. I hope and believe that I can offer STABILITY.

I hope to bring stability in the team by blending the good, older players, with the enthusiastic but inexperienced youngsters.

I hope to bring stability among the directors and supporters by convincing them that we shall have bad times as well as good and by helping them to stick together and fight even harder in adversity.

Some people ask me if I will be living in the shadow of those two teams across the Mersey, Liverpool and Everton. My answer to that is 'Not at all'.

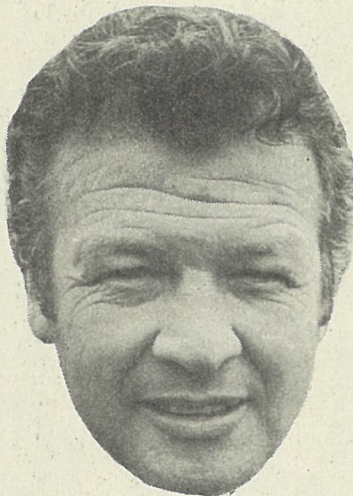
I must work and plan from day to day with the players I've got and very little money. I'd be a fool not to be aware of Liverpool and Everton. I'd be a bigger fool to think that I can set a date for Tranmere Rovers to join them in Division One.

The stability that I have talked about must be based on realism. If I thought that we could ever come near to joining Liverpool and Everton that would be great. For the moment we must do our best where we are.

Who knows — perhaps, as manager, I will reverse the route which I took as a player and climb from Division Four to the First. Fate will decide that.

Right now I know exactly the job I have to do and I'm very happy with it. There is no shortage of keen young players, and good players, too, at this level. It's my job to take them as far as their potential and my experience will allow.

Lads are eager to join Tranmere and when I have two good players competing for every first team place, I will think that I have the makings of a side that is going places.



Danny Blanchflower (left) and Billy Bingham (above) both influenced Bryan Hamilton's decision to become a manager with Tranmere Rovers.

enjoy it. As a player, you tend to think that the managers are on an easy number and that you could do the job standing on your head — or sitting at your desk.

Now I know different. As a player, you have only one job — to play. As a manager you have a hundred and one jobs to do.

We all owe great debts to people we have met and worked with and I've been terribly lucky in the managers that I have known. I never realised, until now, how each of them not only taught me something but that each one of them taught me something different, something unique to him.



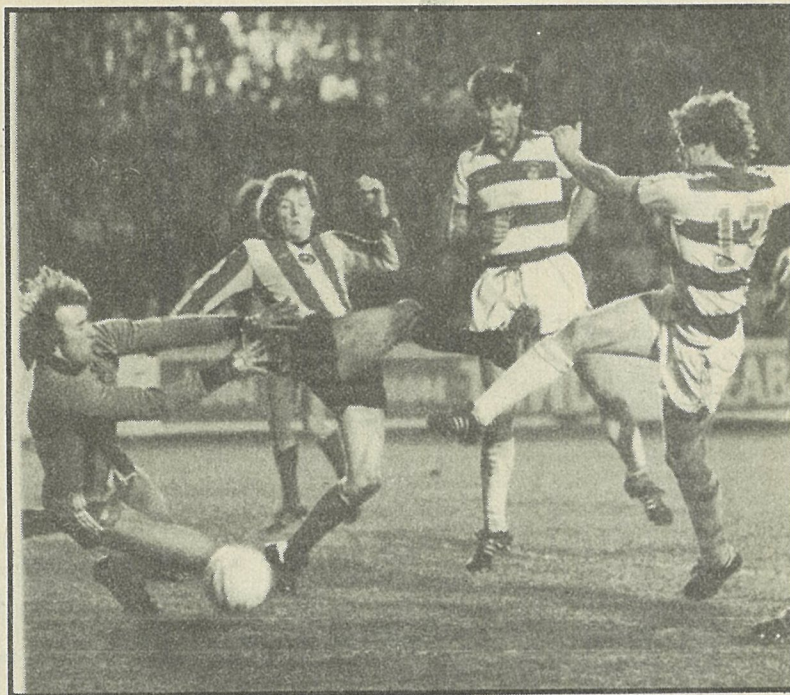
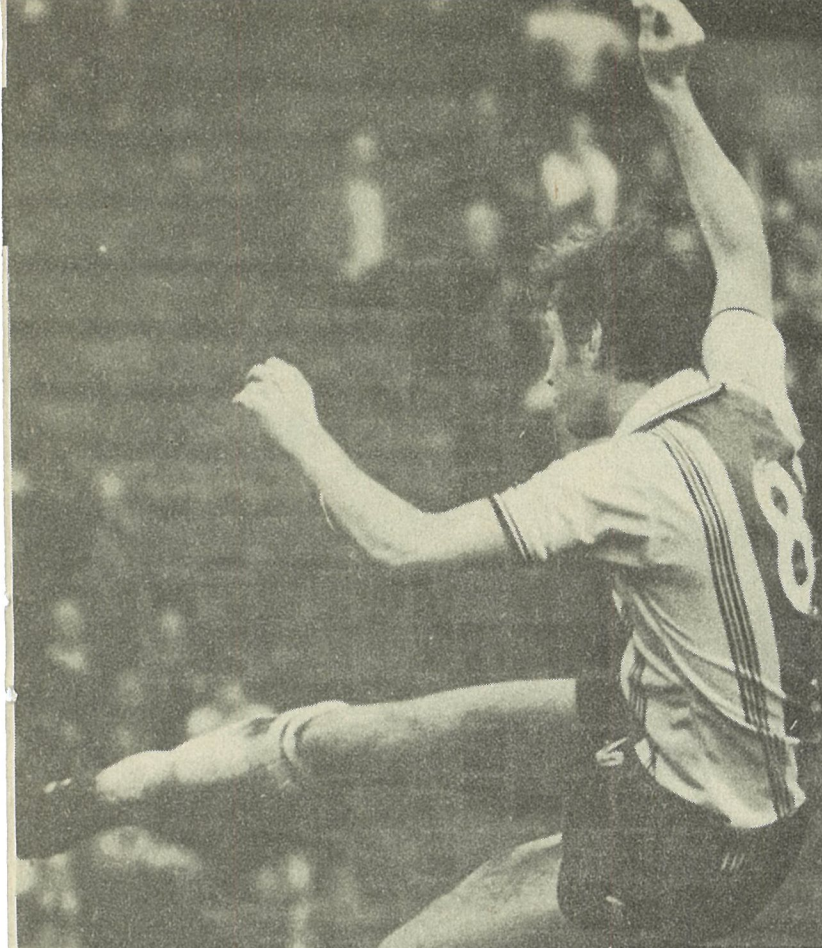
Positions at the top and bottom of the Scottish Premier Division are momentarily reversed as Hearts defender Willie McVie (white strip) beats Aberdeen's Scottish international skipper Willie Miller to head home for the struggling Edinburgh team.

ACTION '80-81

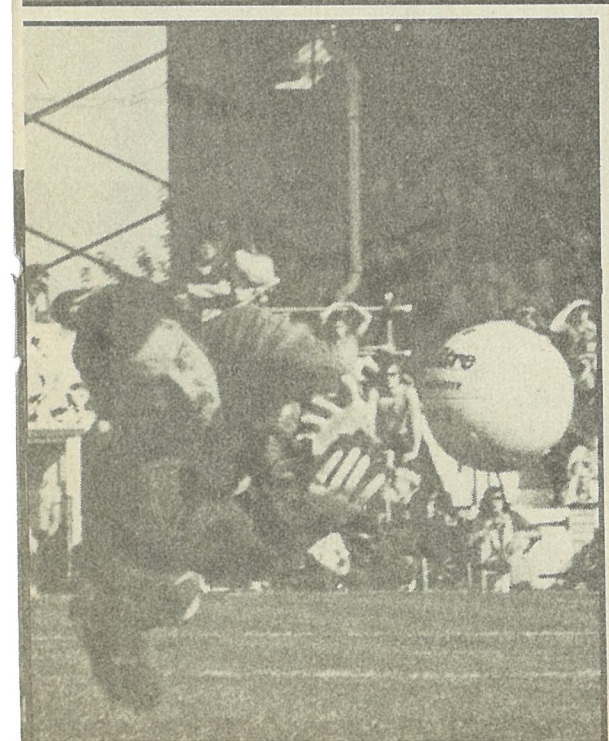


Top of the table action as Allan Evans of Aston Villa tackles Ipswich striker Eric Gates. Malcolm Webster (right) makes a spectacular save for Cambridge to deny a long range effort.





Sheffield United striker Mike Trusson makes an acrobatic attempt on the Rotherham goal (left). Partick Thistle's Scottish international 'keeper Alan Rough saves from Morton substitute Roddie Hutchison (above), while Orient 'keeper Mervyn Day fists clear from his former West Ham team-mate Pat Holland earlier this season (below).



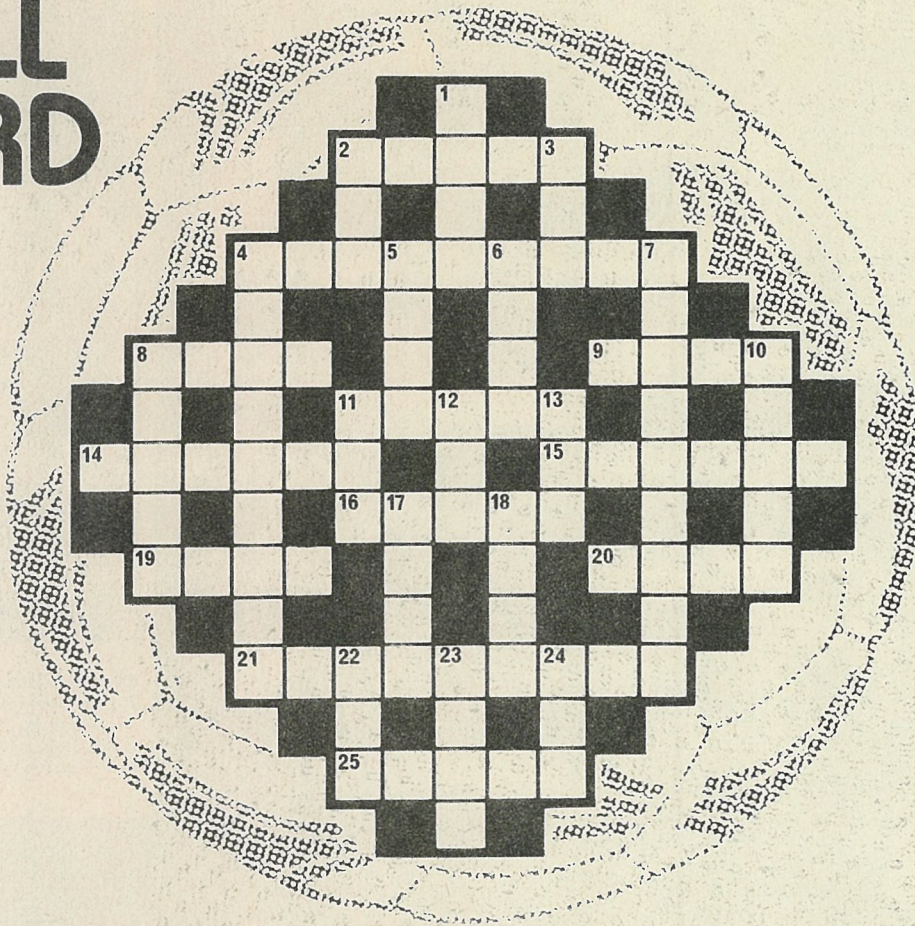
ON THE BALL CROSSWORD

ACROSS:

- (2) Take five letters from BOB PAISLEY to make "gem-stones". (5)
 (4) Ground of the Division Two (English) Runners-Up last season. (5 & 4)
 (8) Famous Polish player found in an Aston Villa tournament! (4)
 (9) David is almost totally eager! (4)
 (11) The greater this is the more difficult it becomes to score! (5)
 (14) — Munich. European Cup Winners 1973/74, 1974/75 & 1975/76. (6)
 (15) Player who plays on either side of centre. (6)
 (16) Mike —, Stoke City defender. (5)
 (19) Take "Lord" from Rochdale and find a pain from the remainder. (4)
 (20) Degree to which one is currently playing. (4)
 (21) Surname of Fulham's manager (youngest manager in the Football League). (9)
 (25) Ian —; Crystal Palace Welsh international striker. (5)

DOWN:

- (1) Kevin —, Newcastle 'keeper. (4)
 (2) What completes (—)well Ground of Barnsley? (3)
 (3) What is also needed to complete Les (—)ley, Coventry City 'keeper? (3)
 (4) — United. The Millers of Division Three. (9)
 (5) Level or equal. (4)
 (6) — Sturrock; Dundee United striker. (4)
 (7) Norwich City defender. (5 & 4)
 (8) Turn over part of Bramall Lane (Sheffield United) to find an animal. (5)
 (10) Indulge in fancy. (5)
 (11) If Brentford represent RED; what do Mansfield represent? (3)
 (12) Rope, effigy or name. (3)
 (13) If Chelsea, Halifax & Reading give LID; what do Arsenal, Berwick & Coventry give? (3)
 (17) Was under obligation to. (4)
 (18) Animal from Millwall's nickname. (4)
 (22) What is needed to complete Alan Ains(—) of Birmingham City?
 (23) The —, nickname of Sheffield Wednesday. (4)
 (24) Terry P(—)ley (Blackpool) requires a tree. (3)



ANSWERS ON PAGE 58

Computer Puzzle

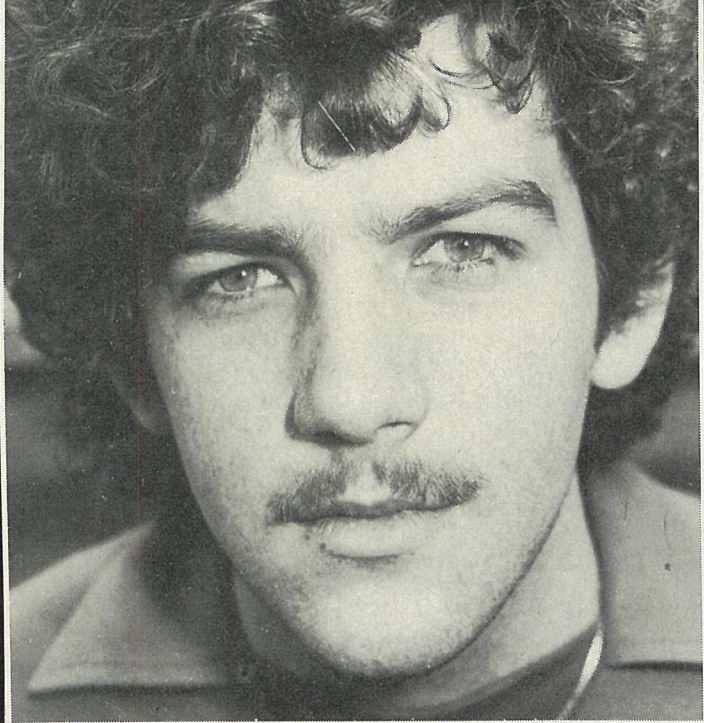
TOMMY HUTCHISON Manchester City

*Programme this star by plugging
the gaps in his career:*

- Tommy's career began in the Scottish League with
- His two previous English League clubs before joining Man. City were
- He has won full Scotland caps.
- He signed for Manchester City in the month of 1980.
- His position in City's line-up is
- He played for Scotland in the World Cup Finals.

Computer performance rating: 6 Superb; 5 Excellent;
4 Knowledgeable; 3 Good (Answers on page 58)





Felgate for Wales?

AN out of the blue transfer which took Dave Felgate from Bolton Wanderers to Lincoln City last October, could well prove to be the stepping stone to the popular goalkeeper's top priority — a place in the Welsh international team.

"My sights are firmly set on representing my country," says the highly-rated 20-year-old. "I've already played at schoolboy and youth levels; now I'm after the big one."

"Team-boss Colin Murphy has told me that he won't rest until he sees me playing for Wales. It's a terrific morale booster from a very good and progressive manager."

"I owe a lot to Colin Murphy. He plucked me from the third team at Bolton and showed his faith in splashing out £25,000 when a lot of people just didn't want to know."

Felgate, born in Blaenau Ffestiniog, began his career as a schoolboy with Everton when Billy Bingham was the manager.

"I couldn't see myself getting anywhere at Goodison," he says. "I asked for my release, got it and joined Cheshire League club Rhyl."

"Then a scout from Bolton Wanderers spotted me and I joined the Burnden Park club. I was there for three years, yet I never played for the first team, apart from a friendly."

"All I wanted at Bolton was a chance to prove myself, but I never got it."

"Different things happened as Ian Greaves left and new manager Stan Anderson took over. Dennis Peacock came from Doncaster and I decided at that time to ask what was happening."

"I'd already been on loan at Rochdale, Bradford, Crewe and Rochdale again. I'll admit that being at those clubs benefited my career, but it wasn't doing my game any good playing in Bolton Wanderers' third team."

"Suddenly an enquiry came from Lincoln and, after a month's loan at Sincil Bank, I signed."

"I was impressed and, to be honest, I was just glad to get here. And with Lincoln being such a good club, then I'm sure I've bettered myself."

Felgate, tall and a commanding figure in the air, puts confidence, technique and a safe pair of hands as the main requirements for good goalkeeping.

"You're always learning," he says, "and coming to Lincoln has given me an added incentive to improve my game. I train in the afternoon with coach Lenny Lawrence where we work on crosses, shooting and agility."

"Charlie Wright at Bolton was my biggest influence. I'm full of admiration for the former 'keeper and I can't thank him enough for what he has done for me."

Strange

"I've no regrets at leaving Bolton. Dropping two Divisions hasn't made any difference. Although it is very strange playing with young lads aged 15 onwards in the third team and then with all the pros in the Fourth Division."

"But I was very lucky to have played with Rochdale because I don't think you can get it any harder than at Spotland."

"I was under a lot of pressure and, I suppose, it helped to develop my game because we were getting pounded every match."

"At Lincoln I don't get called into action all that often. We've got a brilliant defence and most of the shots are blocked before they reach me, which is always a good sign."

"The team is full of confidence and really we should win promotion at the end of this season."

HAPPY HART

PETER HART, Walsall's 22-year-old midfield anchor man, has settled in "just fine" at Fellows Park after his £70,000 pre-season transfer from Huddersfield Town.

"I definitely made the right choice in coming to Walsall," he says. "I know full well that my new club hasn't the First Division history behind it and, obviously, there is a vast difference."

"At Walsall the ground is not as big and we don't command the same sort of following. We haven't as many players, but the ones that we do have are of immense quality."

"There's plenty of youth coupled with the right amount of experience. In all, it's a very progressive and competitive set-up."

Hart, born in Mexborough, signed for Huddersfield as a 15-year-old apprentice in 1972.

"The team had just been relegated from the First Division," he recalls. "Then the following year came the slide into the Third."

"I made my debut against Southend when I was 16 and I became the youngest player to play in Huddersfield's first team. I beat Denis Law's record with a month or two to spare."

"I only played about ten games in the Third Division and the club suffered relegation again. By the time I was 17 Huddersfield had dropped into the

Fourth Division and that's where I made the majority of my 230 appearances."

After captaining Huddersfield's Fourth Division winning side of last season, Hart was all set to sign a new contract with the Leeds Road club.

"I wasn't really on the transfer list," he says, "but there was a two week gap and Alan Buckley must have spotted it. I'll admit that I was unsettled and I didn't feel part of Huddersfield Town anymore."

"I'd no idea that Walsall were interested in signing me and it came as a complete surprise. I feel now that I should have moved earlier. I remember asking for a transfer a couple of years ago and I think I should have left then."

Unbelievable

"Walsall seemed ideal. When Huddersfield played them last season they turned in two unbelievable performances. I just thought that they had a great chance of going into the Second Division with the players they had and that was what I based the move on."

"Player-manager Alan Buckley simply told me that he wanted me to play in midfield in a similar role to the one at Huddersfield."

"I've found Alan a remarkable person. One minute he's just one of the lads cracking jokes in the dressing room. The next he's picking the team, perhaps leaving out some of his mates. It must be difficult, yet he copes very well with the dual situation."

"He showed his pedigree last season when he returned from Birmingham to guide the club back into the Third Division at the first time of asking. He gave a lot of young players their chance and his policy has been proved right."

Hardcore

Hart, likeable and modest, fits neatly and professionally into the description of a bread and butter type of player.

"I'm not a crowd pleaser," he says, "so I haven't really noticed whether the Fellows Park faithful have taken to me or not. What I can say is that we have a hardcore of around 5,000 and come rain or shine they'll be there cheering the team on. Thanks fans!"

"My strengths lie in my tackling ability. I just like to go out and do a job without any frills."

In fact, it can be said that Hart is equally proficient in midfield or as a sweeper in the back four.

"I prefer a defensive role" he says. "I think it's my best position, but I'm quite happy to play wherever the manager wants me to."

"Really it was only a stop-gap measure two years ago at Huddersfield that took me into midfield, and ever since then I've stayed there."

"Walsall are a very attack minded team and there's been thrills galore at Fellows Park this season. For instance, we beat Carlisle 4-3 and drew four apiece with Sheffield United, so it's highly entertaining football for the spectator."

"Promotion might be out for us, but next season should be just about right. The younger players will have gained in confidence and stature and we can probably make an impact and a challenge straight from the word go."



If football managers were to win prizes for picking up bargain buys then Hearts' boss Bobby Moncur would walk away with any awards this season.

For Moncur can boast of two candidates for the 'bargain of the year' title — full-back Peter Shields from Ipswich and midfield veteran Alex MacDonald from Rangers.

And, if the choice was left to Moncur it's likely he would plump for the MacDonald buy as being his best bit of business. That isn't because he under-rates the young and promising Shields — but because he has found himself relying so heavily on MacDonald's experience in the fight for Premier Division survival.

Says Moncur: "He is a perfect professional and his influence has rubbed off on the players around him. He has been essential to our chances this year . . ."

Yet the little redhead who spent most of his career at Ibrox almost didn't make the Inter-City trip from Glasgow to Edinburgh when Moncur first came in for him just after the start of the season. Not because he didn't fancy playing for Hearts — but because he couldn't face the thought of leaving Ibrox.

Today he tells you: "If I had been asked to go to Ibrox for the transfer, you know, for the actual signing, I don't know if I would have been able to do it. I was glad that Bobby Moncur came out to the house to get me to sign the forms. It would have been a terrible wrench to do that at Ibrox . . ."

"I suppose it sounds sentimental — but Ibrox was like a second home to me. When I went there from St Johnstone I found every-

"Take a game against the Old Firm — some of the players haven't played at Ibrox or Celtic Park and so you have to try to coax them through that kind of match.

"This season, I think, is a matter of survival for Hearts. If we can stay in the Top Ten then the boss gets the breathing space he needs with the younger players he has to bring in."

MacDonald doesn't believe he is too old, though Rangers seemed to have decided that when they allowed him to leave.

"I'm over 30 now," he admits. "But I'm not going to say how much over 30 because I don't think that matters. I'm as fit now as I was in my best days at Ibrox."

"My weight never varies, or, at least, it does vary between match days but when I go on the field I'm the same weight as I was at Ibrox ten years ago."

"When Jock Wallace came to Rangers as coach he started special charts on weight and things and I got to the weight I thought was ideal for playing. Just the right weight . . . and I haven't allowed that to change over the years. It's become a matter of pride with me."

"I've always trained hard, always tried to get to the front at Ibrox and I'm still doing the same at Tynecastle. If it ever becomes too hard for me, if it ever reaches the stage that all the training is too much then that's the time I'll chuck it in."

ALEX MacDonald the ace of Hearts

one was great to me — and I mean everyone.

"The women who made the tea, the men on the door, the ground staff . . . all of them were friends. The thought of leaving all of them as well as my mates and as well as Rangers was a hard thing for me to accept."

"Still, I made the move and I haven't regretted it. Hearts were a team who always appealed a little bit to me. Like Rangers they have a bit of tradition and that is important in my book."

"That's basically why I preferred to join Hearts rather than Partick Thistle who also wanted me. It's been hard, mind you, but I knew that when I joined the club."

The difficulty has been for Hearts to adapt to the rigours of the Premier Division. Moncur knew that his team would have problems — hence the signing of MacDonald and his promotion to captain.

"It is difficult for any team just coming into this League," emphasises MacDonald. "And the younger players find it hard to relax because of the pressure on them."

Full-back Peter Shields, signed for Hearts from Ipswich for a bargain fee.



"But, right now, I don't see that day as being very close. If I put on a few pounds over a weekend then I can have it off easily in a day's training. It isn't a worry for me, and neither is playing."

"For a spell at Ibrox last season when I was in the reserves then it was a slog. I didn't see myself getting into the first team and playing in the reserves is shattering."

"I just couldn't get on the same wave-length as some of the players. I'm not criticising them, it's just the way it was. But the move to Hearts and the return to first team football has me as eager as I have ever been."

That appetite has shown up in MacDonald's performances and in the way he has teamed up with young Peter Shields on Hearts' left

flank.

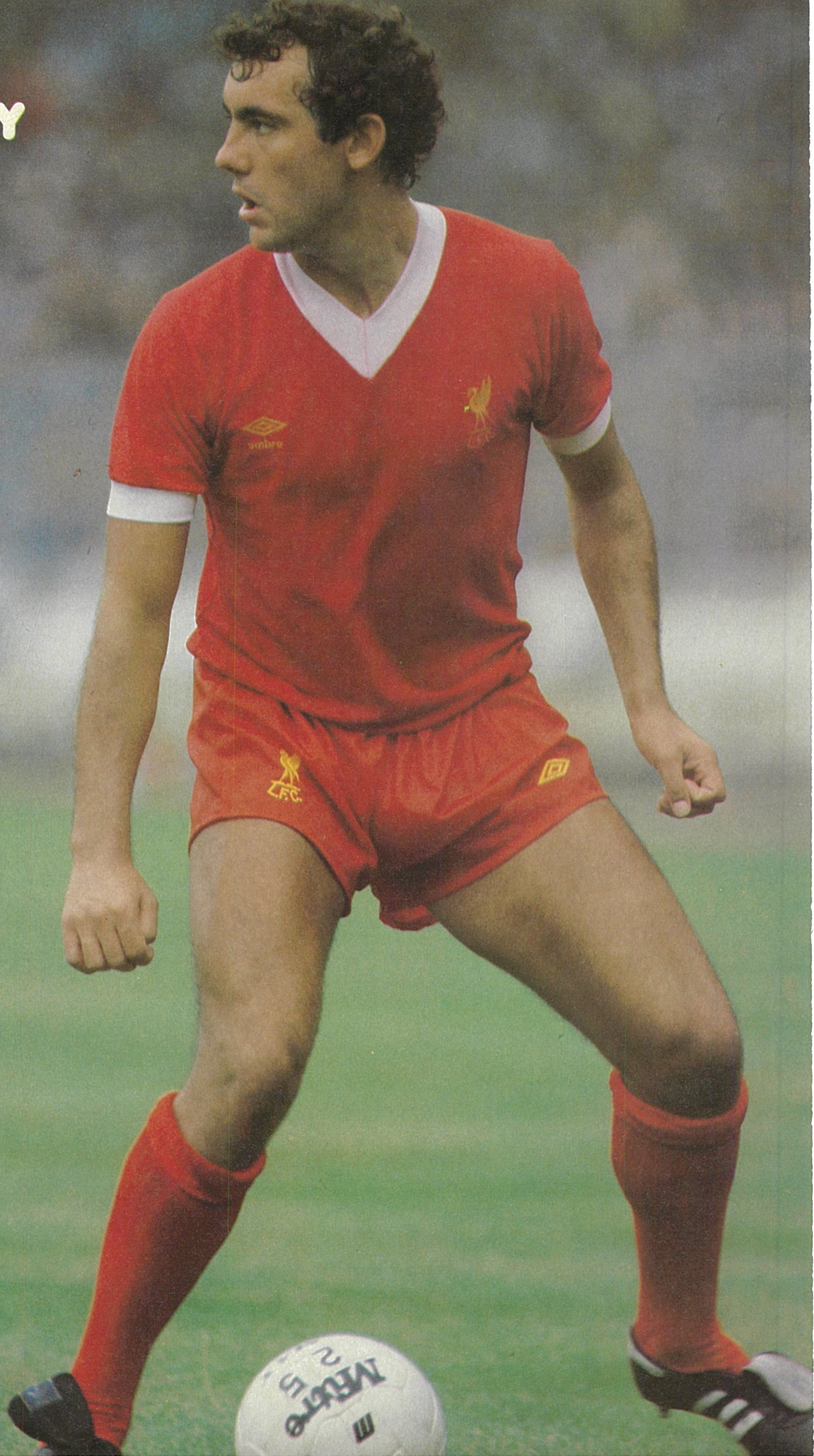
Shields is benefitting from MacDonald's vast experience . . . from a career which brought him a European Cup Winners' Cup medal, every medal in Scottish football and one Scottish cap.

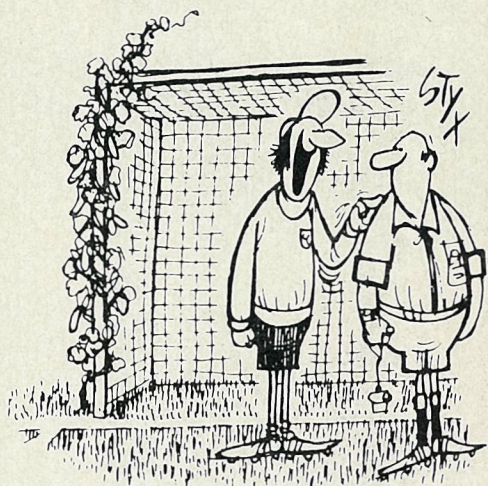
After those years of success he has strong views on the game and some day he might like to carry them into management.

But he stresses: "I'd have to do things my own way. There are ideas that I have which I would like to try out in management, but I'd have to be given a free hand and have no interference. I wouldn't do it any other way . . ."

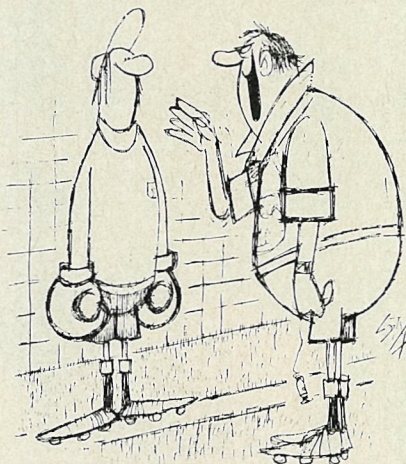
That's been his way on the field and Alex MacDonald isn't going to change now. And Bobby Moncur is glad about that!

**RAY
KENNEDY**
Liverpool

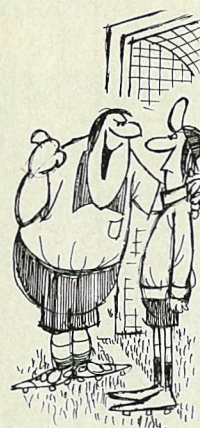




"Remember losing the pea from your whistle last time you were here...?"

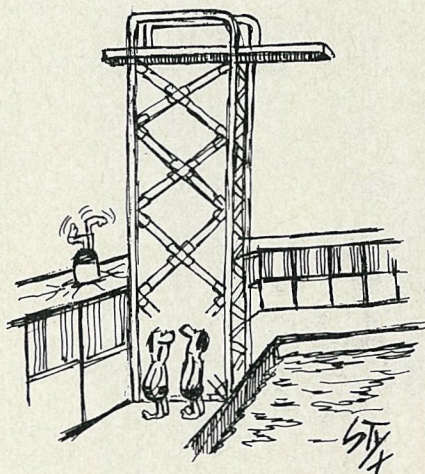


"And don't give me all that rubbish about there being nothing in the rules against a goalie wearing gloves."

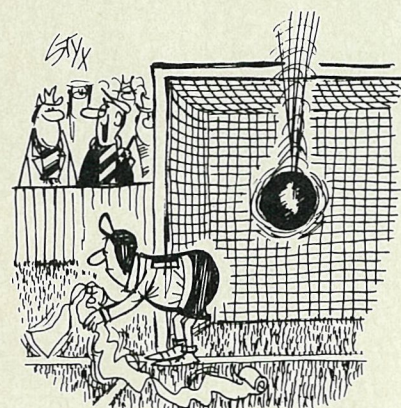


"Before I take this penalty, can I remind you there's 100,000 people in the stadium and millions watching you on TV."

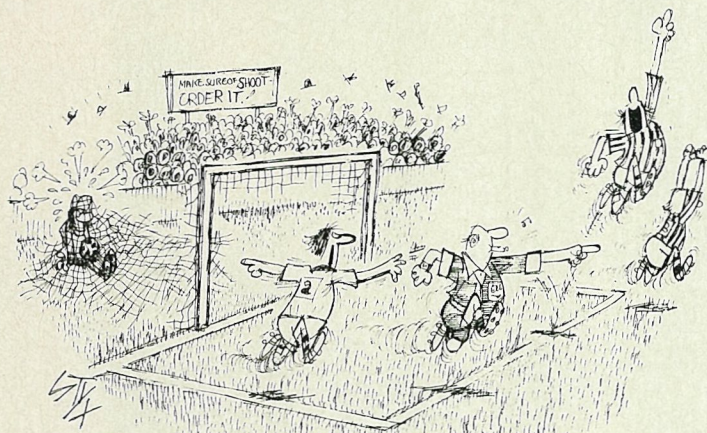
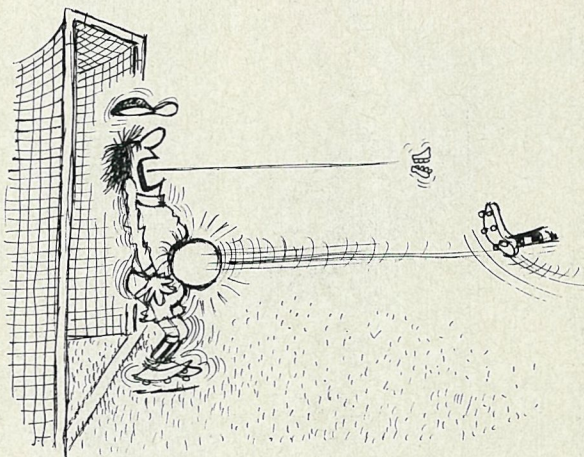
Goalie Giggles



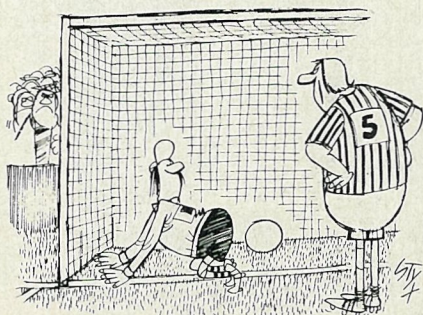
"Our goalkeeper — he always dives the wrong way."



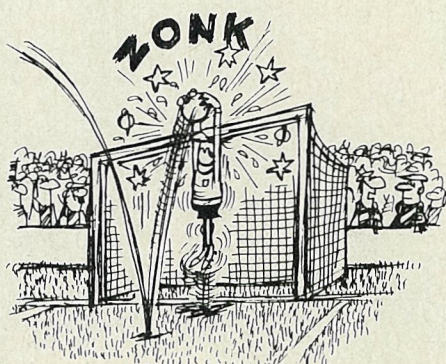
"Their keeper has got a bit of a kick hasn't he?"



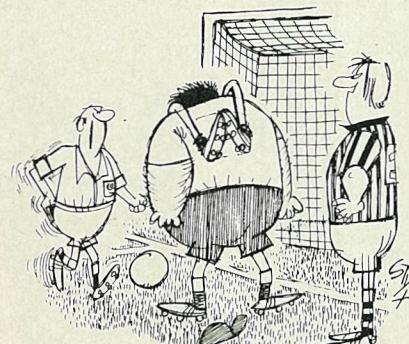
"But ref, they bundled it in."



"While you've been busy warming your hands on the undersoil heating — guess what?"



"Told you so — the ground is as hard as concrete."



"I don't like the way you rushed the goalie."



WALES BEST UNDER ENGLAND

MIKE England's new-look Welsh international team could become the most successful side ever to represent Wales at senior level! That's the view of Swansea and Welsh international defender, Leighton Phillips, who brings experience to England's plans for success in the 1982 World Cup Finals.

Phillips, now approaching the veteran stage as an international player, is convinced Mike England is the man to lead Wales to great success in the future. And England can do it, says Phillips, not by boring defensive methods but by playing attractive, attacking football.

"Already this Welsh team is the most attacking-minded side I have ever played in for Wales," says Phillips. "We have players in our side whom other countries would dearly like to have available to them. That hasn't always been the case in the past, and Mike England is making full use of the talents of those players."

"Players like Leighton James, Brian Flynn, Micky Thomas, Carl Harris and David Giles are natural attackers. They've helped to make Wales more successful but they've done it, by producing entertaining football and that's important."

"I think Mike England is responsible for this attitude. He has always been a positive person and since he became manager he has picked teams to attack sides from the start."

"Mike Smith was probably more defensive-minded and at the moment, I think you have to be attacking-minded in football. Modern day demands dictate that you attack and entertain. It's the only way to be successful."

"I think we have now got the blend in the Welsh side and indeed, the entire squad, to do really well."



Brian Flynn leaves Turkish defender Papiroglu Cem behind as he goes on to score Wales' first goal in a 4-0 victory in October, 1980.

I'm 31 and might be considered one of the old men of the squad.

"But I'll tell you one thing — I won't be giving up my position without a fight because I have a feeling Wales could be on the verge of great things."

"I'd love to go and play in the World Cup Finals and at the moment, that's my ambition. I am

sure Wales are now well enough equipped to get through to the Finals and I'd love to get there with them."

Only the most consistent and very best footballers can match the record of Leighton Phillips at international and club level. Phillips, who is helping both Swansea and Wales climb the success ladder

in football, has just completed a half century of international caps in almost a decade of soccer.

It's a remarkable record and a fine tribute to a player who might not hit the headlines too often, but has served his clubs and country supremely well throughout his career.

Phillips made his international debut way back in 1971, in a Welsh senior side which went down 3-1 to Czechoslovakia, at Swansea. Now, he's won another 50 caps to go with that first one and says: "I feel I could be around for a good while yet."

"The enthusiasm within the Welsh squad has rubbed off on me, and has sparked the old dog. There's plenty of life there yet. And the start we made at Swansea this season, kept me going nicely, too."

"If there's a promotion campaign to be fought later this season for Swansea as well as a battle to get Wales through to the World Cup Finals, I won't have time to think about the future — I'll be too busy with the present."

Phillips played alongside Mike England, in Welsh sides back in 1971. Now he says of his new international boss: "He has put real pride back into Welsh football. The players have seen what he is trying to do for Wales, and have responded very well. He has uplifted the whole set-up."

"This present Welsh squad could be much the same in six years time so there is a great chance to build a club spirit, within the international side."

"So many members of the squad are around 24 years of age, that they must be good bets for six or seven years yet on the international scene. And that can only be good for Wales and her international prospects."

LISTED on these pages are the managerial changes of the present 92 Football League clubs since normal peacetime soccer kicked-off again in 1946, up to the first week of February, 1981.

While assessing the respective managerial merry-go-rounds, though, it must be remembered that ten have come into the League at a later date — and so have played fewer seasons.

These are Colchester, Gillingham, Scunthorpe, and Shrewsbury (1950); Peterborough (1960); Oxford (1962); Cambridge (1970); Hereford (1972); Wimbledon (1977); and Wigan (1978).

Managers listed for these clubs are only those since achieving Football League status.

Quite notable amongst the lists are those managers who've come back more than once for spells with the same club.

Presumably, having been fired once, they still feel brave — or foolish! — enough to bounce back for more.

As often as not with the same bunch of directors — who, unlike those they hire and fire, tend to be rather more long-lived around a club.

Before too long there will be the 1,000th managerial change since the War — and the 92 clubs (including those with only a few years in the League) are already averaging ten apiece.

Of the present band of managers, only a couple — Bobby Robson at Ipswich, and Jimmy Frizzell at Oldham — have been with their club for more than ten years.

Which makes one wonder why



Halifax, Stockport, Walsall... SUPERSACKERS

an intelligent chap like Malcolm Macdonald — already having made a sound success of a purely commercial post at Fulham — should want to switch to team-management?

Even his chairman Ernie Clay, a personal friend, tried to warn him of the obvious pitfalls before finally appointing him.

Hopefully, the likeable "Super-mac" will prove all the doubters wrong by making it as big a success in the manager's hot-seat as he ever did with all his entertaining skills on the field.

And no one will be more pleased than Mr. Clay, or the many other friends he's made in the game.

But the days of Sir Matt Busby — in charge at Old Trafford from October, 1945 to June, 1971,

MANAGERS ON THE MOVE

Since the War — March 2nd, 1981

1... WIGAN (IAN McNEILL).

3... WIMBLEDON (Allen Batsford, Dario Gradi, DAVE BASSETT).

4... WEST HAM (Charlie Paynter, Ted Fenton, Ron Greenwood, JOHN LYALL).

5... HEREFORD (Colin Addison, John Sillett, Tony Ford, Mike Bailey, FRANK LORD).

IPSWICH (Scott Duncan, Alf Ramsey, Jackie Milburn, Bill McGarry, BOBBY ROBSON).

LIVERPOOL (George Kay, Don Welsh, Phil Taylor, Bill Shankly, BOB PAISLEY).

SOUTHAMPTON (Bill Dodgin snr., Sid Cann, George Roughton, Ted Bates, LAWRIE McMENEMY).

6... MANCHESTER UNITED (Matt Busby, Wilf McGuinness, Matt Busby, Frank O'Farrell, Tommy Docherty, DAVE SEXTON).

OXFORD (Arthur Turner, Ron Saunders, Gerry Summers, Mike Brown, Bill Asprey, IAN GREAVES).

STOKE (Bob McGrory, Frank Taylor, Tony Waddington, George Eastham,

Alan A'Court, ALAN DURBAN).
TOTTENHAM (Joe Hulme, Arthur Rowe, Jimmy Anderson, Bill Nicholson, Terry Neill, KEITH BURKINSHAW).

7... ARSENAL (George Allison, Tom Whittaker, Jack Crayston, George Swindin, Billy Wright, Bertie Mee, TERRY NEILL).

BARNSELY (Angus Seed, Tim Ward, Johnny Steele, John McSeveney, Jim Iley, Allan Clarke, NORMAN HUNTER).

BRISTOL CITY (Bob Hewison, Bob Wright, Pat Beasley, Peter Doherty, Fred Ford, Alan Dicks, BOB HOUGHTON).

EVERTON (Theo Kelly, Cliff Britton, Ian Buchan, Johnny Carey, Harry Catterick, Billy Bingham, GORDON LEE).

GILLINGHAM (Archie Clark, Harry Barratt, Freddie Cox, Basil Hayward, Andy Nelson, Len Ashurst, GERRY SUMMERS).

MIDDLESBROUGH (David Jack, Walter Rowley, Bob Dennison, Raich Carter, Stan Anderson, Jackie Charlton, JOHN NEAL).

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (Billy Walker, Andy Beattie, Johnny Carey, Matt

Gillies, Dave Mackay, Allan Brown, BRIAN CLOUGH).

WOLVES (Ted Vizard, Stan Cullis, Andy Beattie, Ronnie Allen, Bill McGarry, Sammy Chung, JOHN BARNWELL).

8... BRISTOL ROVERS (Brough Fletcher, Bert Tann, Fred Ford, Bill Dodgin senior, Dog Megson, Bobby Campbell, Harold Jarman, TERRY COOPER).

CAMBRIDGE (Bill Whittaker, Gerald Williams, Bert Johnson, Roy Kirk, Alan Moore, Bill Leivers, Ron Atkinson, JOHN DOCHERTY).

CHARLTON (Jimmy Seed, Jimmy Trotter, Frank Hill, Bob Stokoe, Eddie Firmani, Theo Foley, Andy Nelson, MIKE BAILEY).

CHESTER (Frank Brown, Louis Page, John Harris, Stan Pearson, Bill Lambton, Peter Hauser, Ken Roberts, ALAN OAKES).

COLCHESTER (Ted Fenton, Jimmy Allen, Jack Butler, Benny Fenton, Neil Franklin, Dick Graham, Jim Smith, BOBBY ROBERTS).

LEICESTER (Johnny Duncan, Norman Bullock, Dave Halliday, Matt Gillies, Frank O'Farrell, Jimmy Bloomfield, Frank McLintock, JOCK WALLACE).

READING (Joe Edleston, Ted Drake, Jack Smith, Harry Johnston, Roy Bentley, Jack Mansell, Charlie Hurley,

MAURICE EVANS).

9... ALDERSHOT (Bill McCracken, Gordon Clark, Harry Evans, Dave Smith, Tom McAnearney, Jimmy Melia, Cliff Huxford, Tom McAnearney, LEN WALKER (caretaker)).

ASTON VILLA (Alex Massie, George Martin, Eric Houghton, Joe Mercer, Dick Taylor, Tommy Cummings, Tommy Docherty, Vic Crowe, RON SAUNDERS).

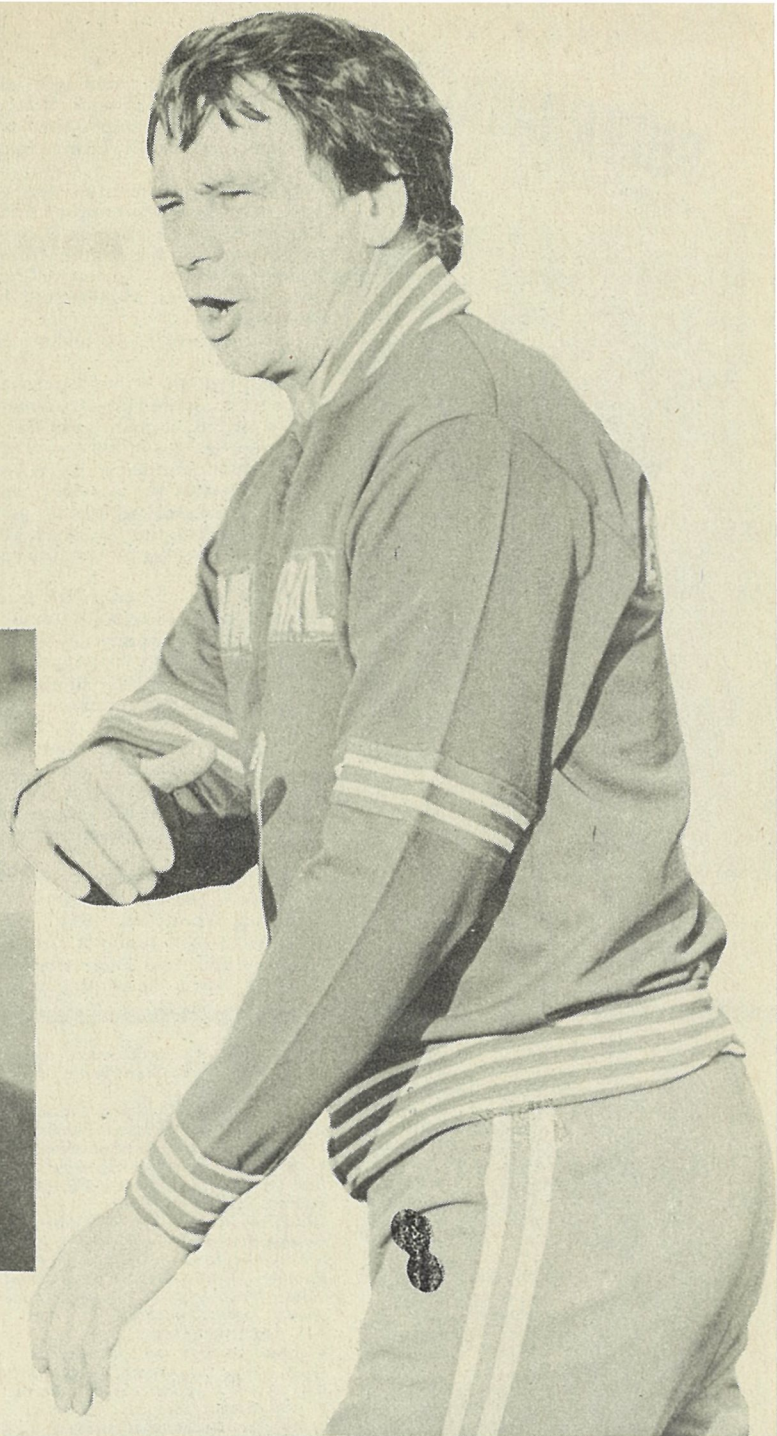
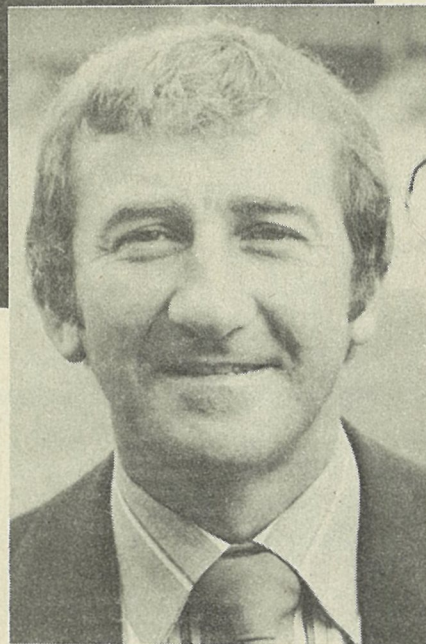
BOLTON (Walter Rowley, Bill Ridding, Nat Lofthouse, Jimmy McIlroy, Jimmy Meadows, Nat Lofthouse, Jimmy Armfield, Ian Greaves, STAN ANDERSON).

BURNLEY (Cliff Britton, Frank Hill, Alan Brown, Billy Dougall, Harry Potts, Jimmy Adamson, Joe Brown, Harry Potts, BRIAN MILLER).

CARDIFF (Bill McCandless, Cyril Spiers, Trevor Morris, Bill Jones, George Swindin, Jimmy Scouler, Frank O'Farrell, Jimmy Andrews, RICHIE MORGAN).

CHELSEA (Billy Birrell, Ted Drake, Tommy Docherty, Dave Sexton, Ron Stuart, Eddie McCreadie, Ken Shellito, Danny Blanchflower, GEOFF HURST).

CHESTERFIELD (Bob Brocklebank, Bob Marshall, Ted Davison, Duggie Livingstone, Tony McShane, Jimmy McGuigan, Joe Shaw, Arthur Cox,



when he became a director — seem to have vanished without trace.

Jimmy Seed was another of the old breed of managers who stood the test of time. He was appointed by Charlton in May, 1933, and remained there until September, 1956.

Both, of course, were highly successful. But even the greatest of managers has an occasional off-period — and it's then that the old-time loyalty of directors to stand by their man appears to have gone by the board (no pun intended!).

Not that getting fired isn't, in the long run, maybe sometimes a blessing in disguise.

Had it not been so then European Champions Forest, and other cur-

Halifax boss George Kirby (top left) has one of the shakiest jobs in the Football League, unlike the security of Jimmy Frizzell (above) at Oldham and Bobby Robson (right) at Ipswich — the longest serving managers currently in the League.

FRANK BARLOW).
DERBY (Stuart McMillan, Jack Barker, Harry Storer, Tim Ward, Brian Clough, Dave Mackay, Colin Murphy, Tommy Docherty, **COLIN ADDISON**).
LINCOLN (Bill Anderson, Bob Chapman, Ron Gray, Bert Loxley, David Herd, Graham Taylor, George Kerr, Willie Bell, **COLIN MURPHY**).
LUTON (George Martin, Dally Duncan, Syd Owen, Sam Bartram, Bill Harvey, Allan Brown, Alex Stock, Harry Haslam, **DAVID PLEAT**).
NEWCASTLE (George Martin, Duggie Livingstone, Charlie Mitten, Norman Smith, Joe Harvey, Gordon Lee, Richard Dinnis, Bill McGarry, **ARTHUR COX**).
PETERBOROUGH (Jimmy Hagan, Jack Fairbrother, Gordon Clark, Norman Rigby, Jim Iley, Noel Cantwell, John Barnwell, Billy Hails, **PETER MORRIS**).
ROTHERHAM (Reg Freeman, Andy Smailes, Tom Johnston, Danny Williams, Jack Mansell, Tommy Docherty, Jimmy McAnearney, Jimmy McGuigan, **IAN PORTERFIELD**).
SOUTHEND (Harry Warren, Eddie Perry, Frank Broome, Ted Fenton, Alvan Williams, Ernie Shepherd, Geoff Hudson, Arthur Rowley, **DAVE SMITH**).
SUNDERLAND (Bill Murray, Alan

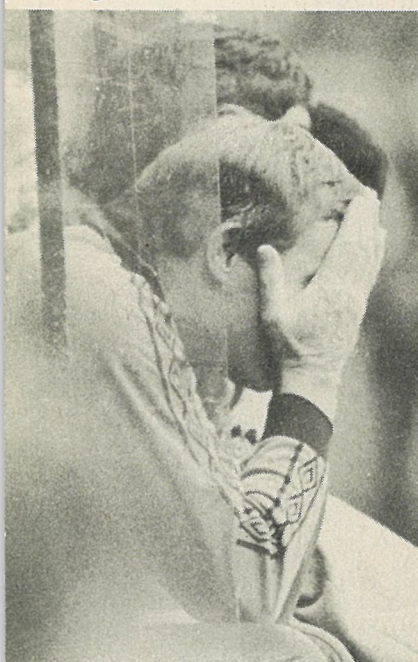
Brown, George Hardwick, Ian McColl, Alan Brown, Bob Stokoe, Jimmy Adamson, Billy Elliott, **KEN KNIGHTON**).
SWANSEA (Bill McCandless, Ronnie Burgess, Trevor Morris, Glyn Davies, Billy Lucas, Roy Bentley, Harry Gregg, Harry Griffiths, **JOHN TOSHACK**).
TRANMERE (Ernie Blackburn, Noel Kelly, Peter Farrell, Walter Galbraith, Dave Russell, Jackie Wright, Ron Yeats, John King, **BRYAN HAMILTON**).
10... BRIGHTON (Tommy Cook, Don Welsh, Billy Lane, George Curtis, Archie Macaulay, Freddie Goodwin, Pat Saward, Brian Clough, Peter Taylor, **ALAN MULLERY**).
HUDDERSFIELD (David Steele, George Stephenson, Andy Beattie, Bill Shankly, Eddie Boot, Tom Johnston, Ian Greaves, Bobby Collins, Tom Johnston, **MICK BUXTON**).
PORTSMOUTH (Jack Tinn, Bob Jackson, Eddie Lever, Freddie Cox, George Smith, John Mortimore, Ron Tindall, Ian St. John, Jimmy Dickinson, **FRANK BURROWS**).
PRESTON (Will Scott, Scot Symon, Frank Hill, Cliff Britton, Jimmy Milne, Bobby Seith, Alan Ball senior, Bobby Charlton, Harry Catterick, **NOBBY STILES**).
SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (Eric

Taylor, Harry Catterick, Vic Buckingham, Alan Brown, Jack Marshall, Danny Williams, Derek Dooley, Steve Burtenshaw, Len Ashurst, **JACKIE CHARLTON**).
SHEFFIELD UNITED (Ted Davison, Reg Freeman, Joe Mercer, John Harris, Arthur Rowley, John Harris, Ken Furphy, Jimmy Sirrel, Harry Haslam, **MARTIN PETERS**).
SHREWSBURY (Sammy Crooks, Walter Rowley, Harry Potts, John Spuhler, Arthur Rowley, Harry Gregg, Maurice Evans, Alan Durban, Richie Barker, **GRAHAM TURNER**).
SWINDON (Louis Page, Maurice Lindley, Bert Head, Danny Williams, Fred Ford, Dave Mackay, Les Allen, Danny Williams, Bobby Smith, **JOHN TROLLOPE**).
WEST BROMWICH (Jack Smith, Vic Buckingham, Gordon Clark, Archie Macaulay, Jimmy Hagan, Alan Ashman, Don Howe, Johnny Giles, Ronnie Allen, **RON ATKINSON**).
11... COVENTRY (Dick Bayliss, Billy Frith, Harry Storer, Jack Fairbrother, Jesse Carver, Harry Warren, Billy Frith, Jimmy Hill, Noel Cantwell, Bob Dennison, **GORDON MILNE**).
HULL (Ernie Blackburn, Frank Buckley, Raich Carter, Bob Jackson, Bob Brocklebank, Cliff Britton, Terry

Neill, John Kaye, Bobby Collins, Ken Houghton, **MIKE SMITH**).
MILLWALL (Jack Cock, Charlie Hewitt, Ron Gray, Jimmy Seed, Reg Smith, Ron Gray, Billy Gray, Benny Fenton, Gordon Jago, George Petchey, **PETER ANDERSON**).
QUEENS PARK RANGERS (Dave Mangnall, Jack Taylor, Alec Stock, Tommy Docherty, Les Allen, Gordon Jago, Dave Sexton, Frank Sibley, Steve Burtenshaw, Tommy Docherty, **TERRY VENABLES**).
TORQUAY (Jack Butler, John McNeil, Bob John, Alex Massie, Eric Webber, Frank O'Farrell, Allan Brown, Jack Edwards, Malcolm Musgrove, Frank O'Farrell, **MIKE GREEN**).
YORK (Tom Mitchell, Dick Dickworth, Charlie Spencer, Jimmy McCormack, Sam Bartram, Tom Lockie, Joe Shaw, Tom Johnston, Wilf McGuinness, Charlie Wright, **BARRY LYONS**).
12... BIRMINGHAM (Ted Goodier, Harry Storer, Bob Brocklebank, Arthur Turner, Pat Beasley, Gil Merrick, Joe Mallett, Stan Cullis, Fred Goodwin, Willie Bell, Alf Ramsey, **JIM SMITH**).
13... BLACKPOOL (Joe Smith, Ron Suart, Stan Mortensen, Les Shannon, Jimmy Meadows, Bob Stokoe, Harry Potts, Allan Brown, Jimmy Meadows, Bob Stokoe, Stan Ternent, Alan Ball junior, **ALAN BROWN**).

SUPERSACKERS

CONTINUED



Alan Dicks (right) was in charge for 13 years at Bristol City. Malcolm Allison (above) has never enjoyed such a long stay at any one club.

rently high-flying clubs like Ipswich, Villa, Manchester United, and Southampton might not have had their own successful managers today.

For, at some time or another, all have been given the chop — Brian Clough by Leeds; Bobby Robson by Fulham; Ron Saunders by Manchester City; Dave Sexton by Chelsea; and Lawrie McMenemy by Doncaster.

Like they say . . . it makes yer fink!

What, though, is the fascination (?) of the highly-hazardous manager's job? Gillingham boss Gerry Summers has put it this way: "It's rather like driving a car. Sure, you know all about the accident rate, the odds are stacked against you, all the gory statistics — yet you still want to go on driving as long as you can."

"Same sort of thing with football. You know you can get the sack almost any hour of any day of any week. But doesn't it always happen to the other chap? Somehow you just don't think it can, it will, ever happen to YOU!"

But hope — and managers — spring eternal. And you can bet your shooting boots that nine out of ten departures will still jump at the first new opportunity which turns up.

The plain fact is that football is addictive — as much as drinking, gambling, or any other "vice".

Even a top psychologist, Dr. Roy Payne of Sheffield University, has said so. He's scientifically re-

searched the mental factors which make a manager, or would-be manager, tick — and came to the conclusion "they're completely hooked on the job . . . it's like a drug to them!"

As he said: "The compulsive gambler goes on and on because he's always convinced that big win is just around the corner."

"It's the same dream of success with the manager. And, so much have their lives from playing-days onwards become immersed in football, the risks hardly appear risks to them at all."

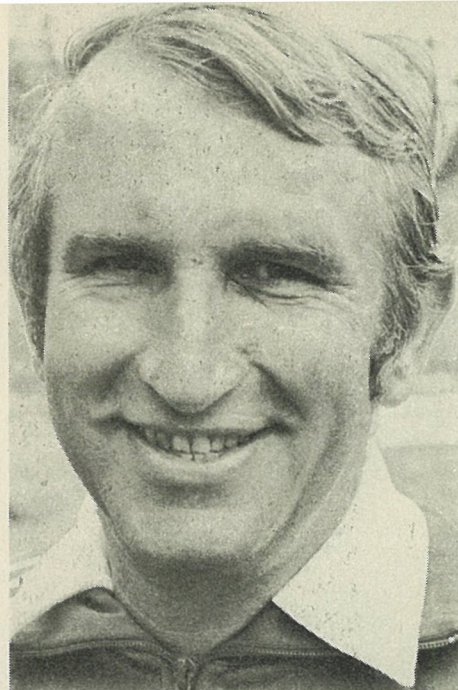
But John Bond, Manchester City's manager, disagrees. He believes that, although the risks are readily accepted, they are also very definitely understood — and, in so being, govern much of the pattern of present day football.

He's said: "It's the fear of the sack which drives many managers into adopting negative, terrace-emptying tactics when their teams for the moment aren't doing as well as they might."

And he's come up with this novel proposition: "If they were assured they would still be in their jobs for the next three years, they would be able to work without pressure to provide the bright, attacking football that would bring the crowds flocking back."

"Club chairmen are the men who hire and fire managers. They get together often enough, and could easily get around to seriously considering a scheme like this."

"If any of them are not happy



with their present manager; O.K. let them get rid of him without delay — but then start afresh and declare a three-year ban on firing his successor."

Three years is one thing. No one, though, is ever likely to have as short a reign in the hot-seat as Bill Lambton — instead, just three DAYS!

He came in on 21st April, 1959 as Scunthorpe's new manager — and went out on 24th April, 1959 as Scunthorpe's EX-manager . . .

FULHAM (Jack Peart, Frank Osborne, Duggie Livingstone, Bill Dodgin senior, Bedford Jezard, Vic Buckingham, Bobby Robson, Johnny Haynes, Bill Dodgin junior, Alec Stock, Bobby Campbell, MALCOLM MACDONALD). LEEDS (Billy Hampson, Willis Edwards, Frank Buckley, Raich Carter, Bill Lambton, Jack Taylor, Don Revie, Brian Clough, Jimmy Armfield, Jock Stein, Jimmy Adamson, ALLAN CLARKE). MANCHESTER CITY (Wilf Wild, Sam Cowan, Jock Thomson, Les McDowall, George Poyser, Joe Mercer, Malcolm Allison, John Hart, Ron Saunders, Tony Book, Malcolm Allison, JOHN BOND). NORWICH (Cyril Spiers, Dugald Lockhead, Norman Low, Tom Parker, Archie Macaulay, Willie Reid, George Swindin, Ron Ashman, Lol Morgan, Ron Saunders, John Bond, KEN BROWN). ORIENT (Charlie Hewitt, Neil McBain, Alec Stock, Les Gore, Alec Stock, Johnny Carey, Benny Fenton, Dave Sexton, Dick Graham, Jimmy Bloomfield, George Petchey, JIMMY BLOOMFIELD). SCUNTHORPE (Les Jones, Bill Corkhill, Ron Stuart, Tony McShane, Bill Lambton, Frank Soo, Dick Duckworth, Freddie Goodwin, Ron Ashman, Ron Bradley, Dickie Rooks, RON ASHMAN). WATFORD (Jack Bray, Eddie Hapgood, Hayden Green, Ron Gray, Len Goulden, Neil McBain, Ronnie Burgess, Bill McGarry, Ken Furphy, George Kirby, Mike Keen, GRAHAM TAYLOR). WREXHAM (Tom Williams, Les McDowall, Peter Jackson, Cliff Lloyd, John Love, Bill Morris, Ken Barnes, Bill Morris, Jack Rowley, Alvan Williams, John Neal, ARFON GRIFFITHS).

HARTLEPOOL (Fred Westgarth, Ray Middleton, Bill Robinson, Allen Chilton, Bob Gurney, Alvan Williams, Geoff Twentyman, Brian Clough, Angus McLean, John Simpson, Len Ashurst, Ken Hale, BILLY HORNER). NORTHAMPTON (Tom Smith, Bob Dennison, David Smith, Dave Bowen, Tony Marchi, Ron Flowers, Bill Baxter,

Bill Dodgin junior, Pat Crerand, John Petts, Mike Keen, Clive Walker, BILL DODGIN junior). NOTTS COUNTY (Arthur Stollery, Eric Houghton, George Poyser, Tommy Lawton, Frank Hill, Tim Coleman, Eddie Lowe, Jack Burkitt, Andy Beattie, Billy Gray, Jimmy Sirrel, Ron Fenton, JIMMY SIRREL). OLDHAM (Bob Mellor, Billy Wootton, George Hardwick, Ted Goodier, Peter McKennan, Norman Dodgin, Jack Rowley, Les McDowall, Gordon Hurst, Jimmy McIlroy, Jack Rowley, Gordon Hurst, JIMMY FRIZZELL). 14 . . . BOURNEMOUTH (Harry Kinghorn, Harry Lowe, Jack Bruton, Freddie Cox, Don Welsh, Bill McGarry, Reg Flewin, Freddie Cox, John Bond, Trevor Hartley, John Benson, Alex Stock, Ted MacDougall, DAVID WEBB). 15 . . . BRADFORD CITY (Jack Barker, John Milburn, David Steele, Ivor Powell, Peter Jackson, Bob Brocklebank, Bill Harris, Willie Watson, Grenville Hair, Jimmy Wheeler, Bryan Edwards, Bobby Kennedy, John Napier, GEORGE MULHALL). BRENTFORD (Harry Curtis, Jackie Gibbons, Jimmy Bain, Tommy Lawton, Bill Dodgin senior, Malcolm McDonald, Tommy Cavanagh, Billy Gray, Jimmy Sirrel, Frank Blunstone, Mike Everitt, John Docherty, Bill Dodgin junior, FRED CALLAGHAN). EXETER (George Roughton, Norman Kirkman, Norman Dodgin, Bill Thompson, Frank Broome, Glen Wilson, Cyril Spiers, Jack Edwards, Ellis Stuttard, Jock Basford, Frank Broome, John Newman, Bobby Saxton, BRIAN GODFREY). MANSFIELD (Roy Goodall, Freddie Steele, Stan Mercer, Charlie Mitten, Sam Weaver, Raich Carter, Tommy Cummings, Tommy Eggleston, Jock Basford, Danny Williams, Dave Smith, Peter Morris, Billy Bingham, MICK JONES). PLYMOUTH (Jack Tresadern, Jimmy Rae, Jack Rowley, Neil Dougall, Ellis Stuttard, Andy Beattie, Malcolm Allison, Derek Upton, Billy Bingham, Ellis Stuttard, Tony Waiters, Mike Kelly, Malcolm Allison, BOBBY SAXTON).

ROCHDALE (Ted Goodier, Jack Warner, Harry Catterick, Jack Marshall, Tony Collins, Bob Stokoe, Len Richley, Dick Connor, Walter Joyce, Brian Green, Mike Ferguson, Doug Collins, Bob Stokoe, PETER MADDEN).

16 . . . BLACKBURN (Eddie Hapgood, Will Scott, Jack Bruton, Jackie Bestall, Johnny Carey, Dally Duncan, Jack Marshall, Eddie Quigley, Johnny Carey, Ken Furphy, Gordon Lee, Jim Smith, Jim Iley, John Pickering, HOWARD KENDALL).

CREWE (George Lillycrop, Frank Hill Arthur Turner, Harry Catterick, Ralph Ward, Maurice Lindley, Harry Ware, Jimmy McGuigan, Ernie Tagg, Dennis Viollet, Jimmy Melia, Ernie Tagg, Harry Gregg, Warwick Rimmer, TONY WADDINGTON).

GRIMSBY (Charlie Spencer, Bill Shankly, Billy Walsh, Allenby Chilton, Tim Ward, Tom Johnston, Jimmy McGuigan, Don McEvoy, Bill Harvey, Bobby Kennedy, Lawrie McMenemy, Ron Ashman, Tommy Casey, John Newman, GEORGE KERR).

NEWPORT (Billy McCandless, Tom Bromilow, Fred Stansfield, Billy Lucas, Bobby Evans, Billy Lucas, Trevor Morris, Les Graham, Bob Ferguson, Billy Lucas, Brian Harris, Dave Elliott, Jimmy Scouler, Colin Addison, LEN ASHURST).

PORT VALE (Billy Frith, Gordon Hodgson, Ivor Powell, Freddie Steele, Norman Low, Freddie Steele, Jackie Mudie, Stanley Matthews, Gordon Lee, Roy Sproson, Colin Harper, Bob Smith, Dennis Butler, Alan Bloor, JOHN McGRATH).

17 . . . BURY (Norman Bullock, John McNeill, Dave Russell, Bob Stokoe, Bert Head, Les Shannon, Jack Marshall, Les Hart, Colin McDonald, Tom McAnearney, Allan Brown, Bobby Smith, Bob Stokoe, Dave Hatton, Dave Connor, JIM ILEY). CARLISLE (Will Clark, Ivor Broadis, Bill Shankly, Fred Emery, Ivor Broadis, Andy Beattie, Ivor Powell, Alan Ashman, Tim Ward, Bob Stokoe, Iam MacFarlane, Alan Ashman, Dick

Young, Bobby Moncur, Martin Harvey, BOB STOKOE). CRYSTAL PALACE (George Irwin, Jack Butler, Ronnie Rooke, Fred Dawes, Charlie Slade, Laurie Scott, Cyril Spiers, George Smith, Arthur Rowe, Dick Graham, Bert Head, Malcolm Allison, Terry Venables, Ernie Walley, Malcolm Allison, DARIO GRADJ).

18 . . . DARLINGTON (Bill Forrest, George Irwin, Bob Gurney, Dick Duckworth, Eddie Carr, Lol Morgan, Jimmy Greenhalgh, Ray Yeoman, Len Richley, Frank Brennan, Allan Jones, Ralph Brand, Dick Connor, Billy Horner, Peter Madden, Len Walker, BILLY ELLIOTT). DONCASTER (Bill Marsden, Jackie Bestall, Peter Doherty, Jack Hodgson, Syd Bycroft, Jack Crayston, Jackie Bestall, Norman Curtis, Danny Malloy, Oscar Hold, Bill Leivers, Keith Kettleborough, George Raynor, Lawrie McMenemy, Maurice Setters, Stan Anderson, BILLY BREMNER).

19 . . . HALIFAX (Jack Breedon, William Wootton, Jimmy Thomson, Gerald Henry, Bobby Browne, Willie Watson, Billy Burnicle, Harry Hooper, Willie Watson, Jim Metcalfe, Alan Ball senior, George Kirby, Ray Henderson, George Mulhall, John Quinn, Alan Ball senior, Jimmy Lawson, GEORGE KIRBY). STOCKPORT (Bob Marshall, Andy Beattie, Dick Duckworth, Willie Moore, Reg Flewin, Trevor Porteous, Bert Trautmann, Eddie Quigley, Jimmy Meadows, Walter Galbraith, Matt Woods, Brian Doyle, Jimmy Meadows, Roy Chapman, Eddie Quigley, Alan Thompson, Mike Summerbee, JIMMY MCGUIGAN). WALSALL (Harry Hibbs, Tony McPhee, Brough Fletcher, Frank Buckley, John Love, Billy Moore, Alf Wood, Ray Shaw, Ron Lewin, Dick Graham, Billy Moore, John Smith, Ronnie Allen, Doug Fraser, Dave Mackay, Alan Ashman, Frank Sibley, ALAN BUCKLEY).

POWER IN THE AIR . . . Andy Gray (Wolves) comes out on top in this heading duel with Joe Gallagher (Birmingham City).





Says manager Marks: "Our breakeven gate is 2,000, but it is important to remember that we receive considerable help from our magnificent Social Club."

"And our wages bill is small. We've 13 players on our books, and of these ten are on one-year contracts, with a one-year option — principally, the lads are in the game for the love of it."

"All of them want to play for Blyth. I vet them carefully, check on temperament and character, and make sure that their minds are in tune with mine when it comes to the welfare of the club."

In the town of Blyth, which has a shipbuilding and mining history and a character of its own, a few miles from Newcastle, Marks is the man who makes the football team tick over. And the Spartans' boss is unable to keep the enthusiasm out of his voice when he speaks of his club.

"We really took off in 1977-78 when we signed Eddie Alder, Ron Scott, Mike Lister and Brian Slane — I'll give a few facts and figures just to illustrate what I mean, start-

the League table."

Not surprisingly, several Blyth players have been snapped up in recent seasons by League clubs, including Alan Shoulder and Steve Carney, who signed for Newcastle United, followed by the departure of Keith Houghton to Carlisle and Les Mutrie to Hull City.

Of these, Alan Shoulder was the most immediately successful, scoring goals regularly after his arrival at St. James' Park, and also leaving his job in the mines to concentrate full-time on professional soccer.

But the rest of his former colleagues at Blyth can't afford to devote all their working hours to football — the Croft Park men work at jobs outside the game during the week, and their occupations are varied.

Goalkeeper David Clarke is a sales representative, right-back Stewart Grierson is an engineer with the National Coal Board, with defender David Varty also an engineer. Of the other players who share the back-four positions, David Mitchinson is a sales representative for a sports firm, Tommy Dixon is a design engineer and Alan Walker works for the National Coal Board.

Then there is midfielder Paul Walker, who is a tool setter, while Terry Johnson, who also plays in this department, is a works manager with a Blyth firm and colleague Alan Barker works locally for an electrical company.

It is players like these who

Left: Blyth (stripes) reached the F.A. Cup Fifth Round in 1977-78 and held Wrexham to a 1-1 draw at the Racecourse Ground. Below: Star Spartans — from left Jack Marks (manager), Gary Moore (coach), Terry Johnson (captain) and Tony Boylan (midfield).

Back in 1977-78, Newcastle's St James' Park drew its biggest gate of that season — 44,000 fans turned up on a bleak winter night to cheer on the most famous non-League club on Tyneside, Blyth Spartans.

The occasion was Blyth's Fifth Round F.A. Cup replay against Wrexham, the winners to meet Arsenal in the Sixth Round, and the tribute paid by the North-East supporters was well-deserved.

Because, once again, Spartans were displaying the traditional Cup-fighting qualities that had gained them solid repute not only in Geordieland but also in other parts of the country.

Blyth, as leading members of Drybrough's Northern League, are seldom an easy side to beat — but once engaged in the sudden-death atmosphere of the F.A. Cup, the Croft Park club takes on a larger than life stature.

And the manager of Spartans, Jack Marks, explains it this way: "The F.A. Cup is well known for its appeal throughout the country. Yet for Blyth supporters, and the players, the competition seems to bring some extra sort of magic quality and hold out a promise of real glamour that overshadows everything else in the game — and the motivation it brings the team is tremendous."

Certainly, the fact that the F.A. Cup gives added motivation to Blyth is borne out by the past record of Spartans. The Croft Park outfit has appeared 28 times in the First Round of the competition, 12 in the Second, four in the Third, once in the Fourth, and once in the Fifth.

And perhaps one of the most memorable Cup-fighting performances of Spartans was against Stoke City in 1978, at Stoke.

Blyth Spirit



Over 10,000 Blyth fans made the trip to the Potteries, but there were two postponements of this Fourth Round F.A. Cup-tie before Spartans defeated Stoke 3-2.

Eventually, Spartans received their Cup K.O. that year at the hands of Wrexham after a protracted struggle in the Fifth Round, but not before the tiny North-Eastern club had caught the imagination of the country with its exploits.

And those fans! When neighbouring North Shields know what it's like to play in front of only 100 supporters in Drybrough's Northern League, Blyth regularly draw attendances of 2,000 — enough to enable Spartans to survive in these days of economic recession.

ing with our winning Cup-tie against Stoke in that season. Next, our losing tie against Wrexham.

"Then in 1978-79, we were third in the League and won our League Cup. This was followed by us winning the League title last season with a total of 92 points, seven more than the runners-up, Spennymoor, remembering of course that in our League a team is awarded three points for a win. We also reached the First Round of the F.A. Cup, to be beaten by Mansfield, and progressed to the Quarter-Final of the F.A. Challenge Trophy.

"And this term, we were beaten at the third attempt by Hull City in the Second Round of the F.A. Cup, and at present are lying second in

through the years have ensured magnificent Cup runs for Spartans. While other non-League clubs have to be content with making small profits from the F.A. Cup, the competition throughout the years has turned into a multi-thousand cash bonanza for Blyth.

Yet the financial rewards have appeared to mean nothing to the Blyth players — as manager Marks maintains, they are in the game for the love of it. What Spartans are looking for in the F.A. Cup is glory, a place in history and fame in their community, and these factors outweigh the appeal of money.

Off the field, other men, along with Jack Marks, have done much to keep Blyth's name before the public — chairman Jim Turney, so long a power behind the scenes, and secretary George Watson.

And has the success achieved turned the aspirations of Spartans towards a more prestigious future for themselves, perhaps in the Fourth Division of the Football League?

Says Marks: "The question of Blyth seeking League status is one which hasn't come up in my spell here — we'll just have to wait and see."

Meanwhile, the vision of future F.A. Cup battles will never be far from the minds of Blyth Spartans, their manager and their remarkable supporters — after all, it's part of their heritage.



KENNY SWAIN Aston Villa

NO BLUES FOR TARANTINI

IT'S two years since Alberto Tarantini and Birmingham City parted company. And if the Argentine World Cup full-back was something of a disappointment with Blues, he was also less than sensational when he returned to Argentina to join top provincial side Talleres of Cordoba.

After only a few months, Tarantini was on the move again — back to the capital Buenos Aires to the then double-Champions River Plate.

Even there he wasn't an immediate success . . . "During the opening couple of months of the season, when we were playing League and Copa Libertadores matches, I was a disaster.

"I felt too tensed up, and I wasn't anything like a hundred per cent physically. And, funnily enough, it wasn't till I came back to Europe with the Argentine national team that I began to find my real form again.

"I was hopelessly bad against England at Wembley, but I played better in the next game against the Irish.

"In the meantime, the League programme had taken a breather, and when we started back I suddenly found I was O.K. again. There was a fabulous atmosphere in the squad, and everyone was marvellous to me.

"The River players and my family did a lot to help me return to peak form. Suddenly I felt so confident that I told everyone that River would win the League by eight or nine clear points — and we did.

"I've also adapted my style to suit River — I daren't go upfield as much as I used to, because if Passarella and I move forward at the same time, we're in trouble. Anyway, I've proved that Tarantini is still at the top — though even I had begun to doubt it!"

Berto, as they called him in Birmingham, is still Menotti's first choice left-back and played in the Copa de Oro in Uruguay a few months ago.

He enjoyed his "European adventure," but says he has no desires now to play anywhere else but Argentina . . . except in Spain for the World Cup next year when his country defend their crown.



LOVE GAME

SO keen a fan of the Hungarian club Ujpest Dozsa is 20-year-old Edouard Horvath that when he married recently, his bride, Magda Gobei, agreed to have their honeymoon in a tent pitched in the club's car park. Edouard claimed: "I am at my best only when near my beloved heroes."

NOTHING TO WINE ABOUT

HIS favourite soccer club, Sporting Lisbon, had a difficult fixture and Portuguese fan Rodriguez Driks was not sure of the outcome. As he took his place on the terraces, he told all and sundry: "If we win today, there's a free bottle of wine for anyone who cares to call at my shop." A narrow, 1-0 win was enough to make Rodriguez jubilant, and to heck with the cost. No fewer than 245 fans queued and received their free wine.

NUT FROM BARCELONA

HIS love for the Spanish football team Barcelona made Manuelo Mariano go too far, decided a

SOCCER WITH A SMILE

divorce court. When his team faced stiff opposition recently, Manuelo urged his wife, Dolores: "Do a strip act near their goalie, to distract him. That's all we need to beat 'em." The girl refused and he beat her instead. Now he'll have to look further afield for help. Dolores is free and off back home to mother.

BRAGGART OF BRAGA

PORTUGUESE soccer fan Francisco Pinos would never concede that his heroes of the Braga XI were inferior to the team his girl, Maria-Anita, supported. But when the mighty Benfica humbled Braga, she told him: "Now we'll see who is too proud for his own good. Either you stand outside the ground loudly pro-

claiming that Braga is NOT the best team in Portugal, or our wedding is off." Poor Francisco loved her so much that he started his penance — but had made his pronouncement only twice before he was flattened by a more-ardent fan. Maria-Anita relented, and the braggart of Braga sadly went home.

HE'S 'GORN' ON GORNIK

FOR Polish football fan Sergei Ryżowiec there is no team in all the world as good as his heroes — Gornik Zabrze. Not only does he have their name tattooed on his chest, wrists and upper arms, but he has scrawled their name 300-times on the ceiling of his bedroom, as well as papering the walls with their photographs.

THE HERO OF VADUZ

BACK in Vaduz, Liechtenstein, Joachim Riefenstahl is just a manual worker, entertaining Walter Mitty-like dreams of being a famous footballer. But while watching a recent game between a Liechtenstein and a Swiss XI, he day-dreamed his way onto the pitch,

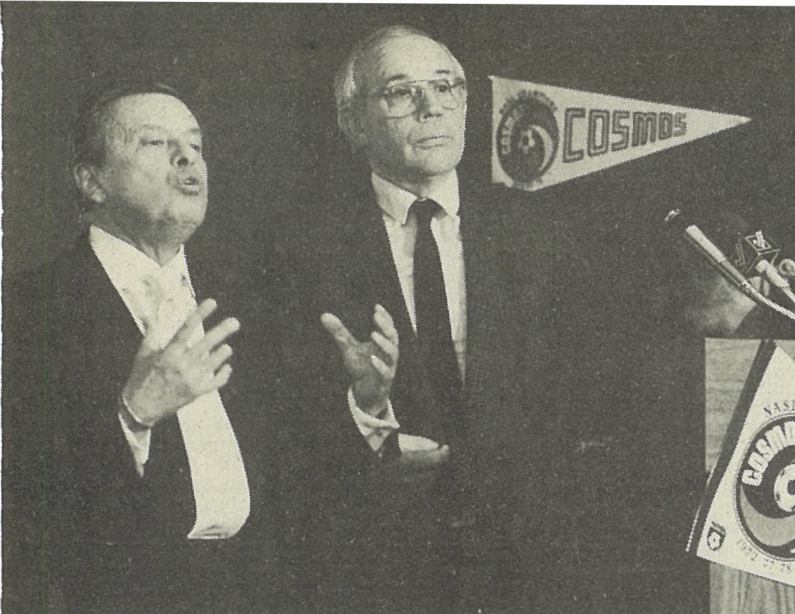
gained possession of the ball and, trickling and dribbling his way past three defenders, scored a goal — before being escorted from the pitch by police. Impressed by his footwork, a Swiss club is now to give him a trial. Not bad for a 37-year-old.

THEIR NUMBER'S UP

DURING a friendly fixture in Dublin between two rival commercial firms' teams, the accent was definitely upon attack — and never mind defending. But when the score reached 12-12, there came a lull. Every player was too superstitious to score a 13th goal — and so the ball was aimlessly kicked around until the final whistle blew.

COLD SHOULDER

WHEN Icelandic soccer fan Kjeld Isbister sought a divorce from his wife, he claimed that he had never really loved her in the first place — and had married her only because her family name was Fram — the name of the soccer club he supports. "But she didn't live up to expectations," he added. A decision has been delayed until the girl, visiting relatives in America, arrives home to give evidence.



WITH Franz Beckenbauer now back in Europe with Hamburger SV, the Cosmos will be looking for another superstar for the 1981 NASL season. Having failed to secure Bernd Schuster, they've had to put on their thinking caps. The fact is there are few genuinely outstanding stars in Europe right now.

Even so, the New York club are Champions of North America and coach Hennes Weisweiler (above right) had a highly successful first season. The Cosmos are a club often surrounded by controversy and this interview with Weisweiler on their trip to Europe gives you some idea of how things are.

• Were you happy with your first season in New York?

• I should be. Cosmos started the season badly but when I took over, things began to improve — for three and a half months we didn't lose a single match. I travelled across the USA several times to study the set-up. After that, I gave them an analysis which they never had at Cosmos before.

• Beckenbauer was quoted as saying that Weisweiler is the first coach the Cosmos players respect.

• You see? They know they can't play up with me. Whoever doesn't toe the line is sacked.

• Did you follow the hard line from the very start?

• Of course. I hardly arrived when I sent Rijsbergen and Wilson packing from Washington.

WEISWEILER EDUCATES THE COSMOS

• Why?

• At 11.30pm they were still sitting in the hotel bar. I gave them a chance to get out. When they didn't, I took it as a provocation and acted.

• Mr. Weisweiler, we cannot recall having seen another pro team where players are such chain smokers and where they run around hotels with drinks in their hands. How does it reconcile with the high principles on these matters which you used to hold in the Bundesliga?

• Well, you see . . . it's a different world here. The long trips, at times from coast to coast, provide a different atmosphere. Here I don't object if the players sometimes go to a disco or have a cognac. Here I can't enforce the rules so completely.

• But Bogicevic is a chain smoker?

• Yes, that he is but he still plays well. I can't make him give up his cigarettes. So what can I do? If I still insisted, I'd annoy myself non-stop and have a heart attack. But one thing is certain: once he fails to play for the 90 minutes, I throw him out.

• We've heard that Bogicevic has signed a new three-year contract with Cosmos?

• That means nothing at Cosmos.

They have enough money to pay off who ever they want.

• Is your training system the same as it was in Germany?

• Yes, all sorts of variations, five against two, man-to-man duels, freekicks, corners, etc. I have a bit of a problem with the American players. They are most willing but often lack self criticism but I'm working on that.

• How valid are the charges which call the NASL an "operette league"?

• Nonsense. All teams play flat out. Do you think any of them want to lose? Nowhere else in the world are professional sportsmen tougher than here. None of them want to lose just as a joke.

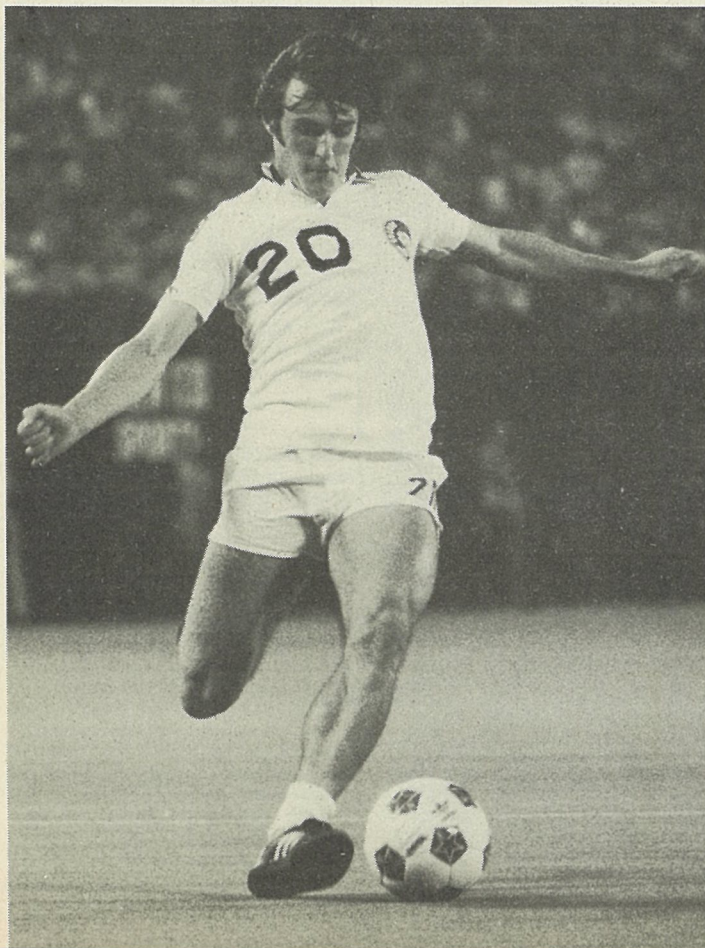
• Are you upset about the departure of Beckenbauer? After all, he brought you to Cosmos?

• No, he didn't, Neeskens did. Beckenbauer only established for me the initial contacts. Naturally, I would have liked to keep him but who wouldn't? Well, he's gone but the team stays.

• Do you think he can play for Germany again?

• We have to wait and see. But why not? We know that he can't be measured by the usual yardstick.

'Judge me next year' says Van der Elst



HE signed the contract on April 1st. But there was nothing foolish about Francois Van der Elst's million-dollar move from Anderlecht to American giants Cosmos. And in five months the 26-year-old winger was picking up his first Championship title alongside Franz Beckenbauer and his star-studded side.

The Cosmos' new manager Hennes Weisweiler was the motive force behind Van der Elst's signing. The experienced German saw the speedy right-flanker as the perfect foil for Giorgio Chinaglia's 'blood and thunder' approach in the centre of the attack.

The negotiations took the best part of a month, with Francois initially reluctant to leave Anderlecht after 13 years with the Belgian side.

There was also the question of helping Anderlecht qualify for Europe at the end of a season when they failed to exert their usual dominance in the Belgian League.

And the question of representing his country in the 1980 European Championship.

And the question of his wife Gratiene who was expecting the couple's second child. . .

Finally a compromise was reached, and Francois found himself on a flight from Brussels to Vancouver immediately after the European Championship had finished.

He stepped from the plane to make his Cosmos debut against a Vancouver Whitecaps side in which Ruud Krol was also making his first appearance after his move from Holland.

Van der Elst scored, the Cosmos notched their first win in Vancouver for six years, and everybody seemed happy

with the team's new acquisition.

"But that didn't give me any false ideas," recalls the Belgian international. "I knew that I would have to spend a lot of time acclimatising to a completely new private and professional way of life. Realistically, I can't hope to produce my top form till the 1981 season."

While Van der Elst was getting used to artificial turf; different rules; and 12 hours of flying in two different time zones for an away match, his team-mates and the club's directors were doing their level best to make him feel at home — though he was surprised that the Cosmos players see little of each other outside the Giants Stadium.

"We seem to live fairly widely-spread around New York and the suburbs, so there's little social life among the squad."

"Fortunately the Rijsbergen family took me under their wing and helped me through the difficult first weeks. The club gave me a fabulous apartment and a brand new car, so I've got no complaints there."

In the meantime, Francois' wife Gratiene arrived in New York with their two children (the elder is named Kevin after superstar Keegan) and the family hope to move into a luxury villa before the start of the new American season which starts soon.

Francois was aiming to make the most of the Cosmos' European tour to get used to playing wider and further up front than in his traditional role with Anderlecht, and hopes that he can help the Cosmos remain, during the three years of his contract, at the very top of the US soccer tree.

FOLLOWING IN FATHER'S BOOTSTEPS

"Like father, like son?" It certainly is. "Following in father's footsteps"? Yes, indeed!

We're prepared to argue — and support it with formidable facts — that the lure of a life in soccer at top level never held a more powerful pull on the rising generation than it does today.

And there's overwhelming evidence from all over the country that the sons of soccer stars of yesteryear, inspired by what dad did in the game, are intent on emulating him.

Anyway, more and more cases keep cropping up of clubs recruiting youngsters who start with the advantage of possessing

an imposing family background in the game, and there surely can't ever have been time when Football League playing staffs included such a vast army whose fathers had preceded them as professionals with League clubs.

On First Division pay-rolls alone, for example, there's the equivalent of more than two complete teams of players whose fathers likewise used to be Football League players.

Crystal Palace (Paul Hinshelwood, Clive Allen, and Shaun Brooks) actually throw up three such instances; and so do Everton with Mark Higgins, Trevor Ross, Gary Megson, and Joe McBride.

Aston Villa own a trio of these like-father-like-son tie-ups with Ken McNaught, Alex Cropley, and Terry Donovan; Arsenal (John Hollins and Paul Vaessen) possess a pair; and so do Manchester

United (Gary Bailey and Ray Wilkins).

Add to all that lot the names of Mark Hateley (Coventry), Paul Hart (Leeds), Russell Osman (Ipswich), Gerry Francis (Q.P.R.), Kevin Bond (Norwich), Gary Mills (Forest), Lee Chapman (Stoke) Peter Barnes (West Brom.), and Stuart Beavon (Spurs) and you realise what a host of proud dads there must be up and down the country as they see how their offspring have followed them into League life.

The Second Division? There you'll find the Bristol Mabbutt pair, Kevin (City) and Gary (Rovers) and Gary Emmanuel (Rovers), Paul Petts (Shrewsbury), Paul Allen (West Ham), Jeremy Charles and Cameron Medwin (Swansea), Paul Atkinson (Oldham), and Andy McCulloch (Sheffield Wednesday) all with family pedigrees based upon dad's days in the Football League.

In Division Three there are, among others, Alan Ball and Iain



Gary Bailey (left) has followed father Roy (above) into Football League goalkeeping.

Hesford (Blackpool), Trevor Swinburne (Carlisle), and Steve Waddington (Walsall) all, surely, profiting from father's first-hand prior knowledge of a soccer pro's life at top level.

As for the Fourth Division John Linacre and Mike Spelman (Hartlepool), Adrian Burrows and Russell Allen (Mansfield), Carl Swan (Doncaster), Phil Ferns (Bournemouth), and Keith Bowen (Northampton) might never have earned a living at the game had not some of dad's earlier skill at it rubbed off on them.

It all adds up to surely the most amazing array of soccer sons of footballing fathers known in the game since the beginning of its time.



TOMMY Docherty has never been afraid to back his faith in young players. "If they're good enough, they're old enough," has always been his philosophy.

During his reign at Old Trafford, he produced the most exciting young United side since the Busby Babes.

He also brought that kind of youthful skill and enthusiasm to the West London soccer scene during his spell as manager of Q.P.R.

That brilliant dynamic duo of Paul Goddard and Clive Allen may have hit the headlines and moved on, but thanks to Q.P.R.'s talented Youth Development Officer, Chris Gieler, there are plenty more stars where those super strikers came from.

Young Wayne Fereday has al-

DEAN MAKING HIS MARK

ready made the breakthrough and now Terry Venables and his back-room team have high hopes for three more youngsters. They are English schoolboy internationals, Ian Muir and Warren Neill and yet another member of the amazing Wilkins soccer nursery, Dean Wilkins. Like his famous brothers,

Ray "Butch" and Graham, Dean shows a quiet brand of confidence both on and off the pitch. He looks to have a bright future ahead of him.

"I'm 18 now and I've been with Rangers for three years," Dean told SHOOT, "but it was always my ambition to be a professional footballer."

"I used to go and see Butch every week when he was playing for Chelsea and he was a big influence on me. I'd sit there in the stand thinking, 'I'd love to be out there too'."

As a schoolboy, Dean was a mid-field player, like his famous brother, but The Doc moved him to left-back. But his mental attitude to the game was shaped by that unique family background.

"I've got three brothers and two sisters," Dean smiled. "We all love football. Butch is with United, Graham's with Chelsea, I'm with Rangers and Stephen plays for Hayes in the Isthmian League. My mum has always encouraged us, and my dad, George, used to be a player himself. Even when we were kids he'd teach us the right habits."

"If we were going for a game of football over the park he'd tell us to do some sprinting and practise our

heading and shooting, as well as joining in the kick-around. He loves to see skilful players and he did all he could to put us on the right track. We owe him a lot."

Like his brothers, Dean is a level-headed, mature young man. Does that down-to-earth attitude stem from his family background too?

"Yes, I think so," he nodded. "We know our parents are happy to see us doing well, but my dad doesn't give his praise easily. You have to play really well to please him. He always expects the best of us, on and off the field."

The Wilkins family are very close, but Ray has emerged as the brightest star. Dean obviously respects him, but when they get together with the family, he never asks Butch for advice about his own game.

"Now that Ray, he hates me calling him Butch, lives up in Manchester, it's difficult for us all to get together. When it happens, we never talk about football. We're too busy catching up on the latest family news. But I've followed Ray's career right through and he deserves his success. I've learnt a lot from him."

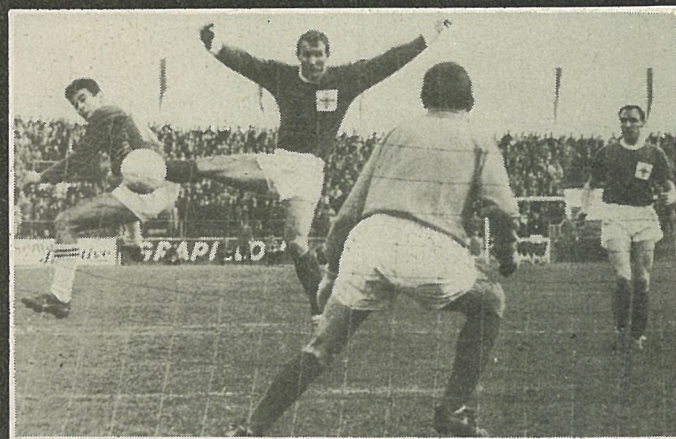
Everyone at Rangers has been delighted by Dean's reserve team performances. The switch to left-back was a master stroke. Now, he looks set to make his own mark on the game.

"There's a very good Youth side at Rangers at the moment," said Dean. "I'm sure players like Warren Neill, Ian Muir and Wayne Fereday will do well in the game. There's a really good atmosphere at the club too, with Terry Venables in charge. I've never regretted turning professional. It's a lovely life!"



Ian Muir, Warren Neill and Dean Wilkins may all be England schoolboy internationals, but they still have to take their turn to clean the boots at Queens Park Rangers.

STORY OF A STAR



The Newry-born goalkeeper has been a model of consistency since he joined Watford in 1963. While with the Vicarage Road club he made his international debut for Northern Ireland against Wales in 1964 (above, playing against Switzerland in his fifth game). After 48 League games he moved to Spurs and in 1967 helped them beat Chelsea (right) 2-1 in the F.A. Cup Final.



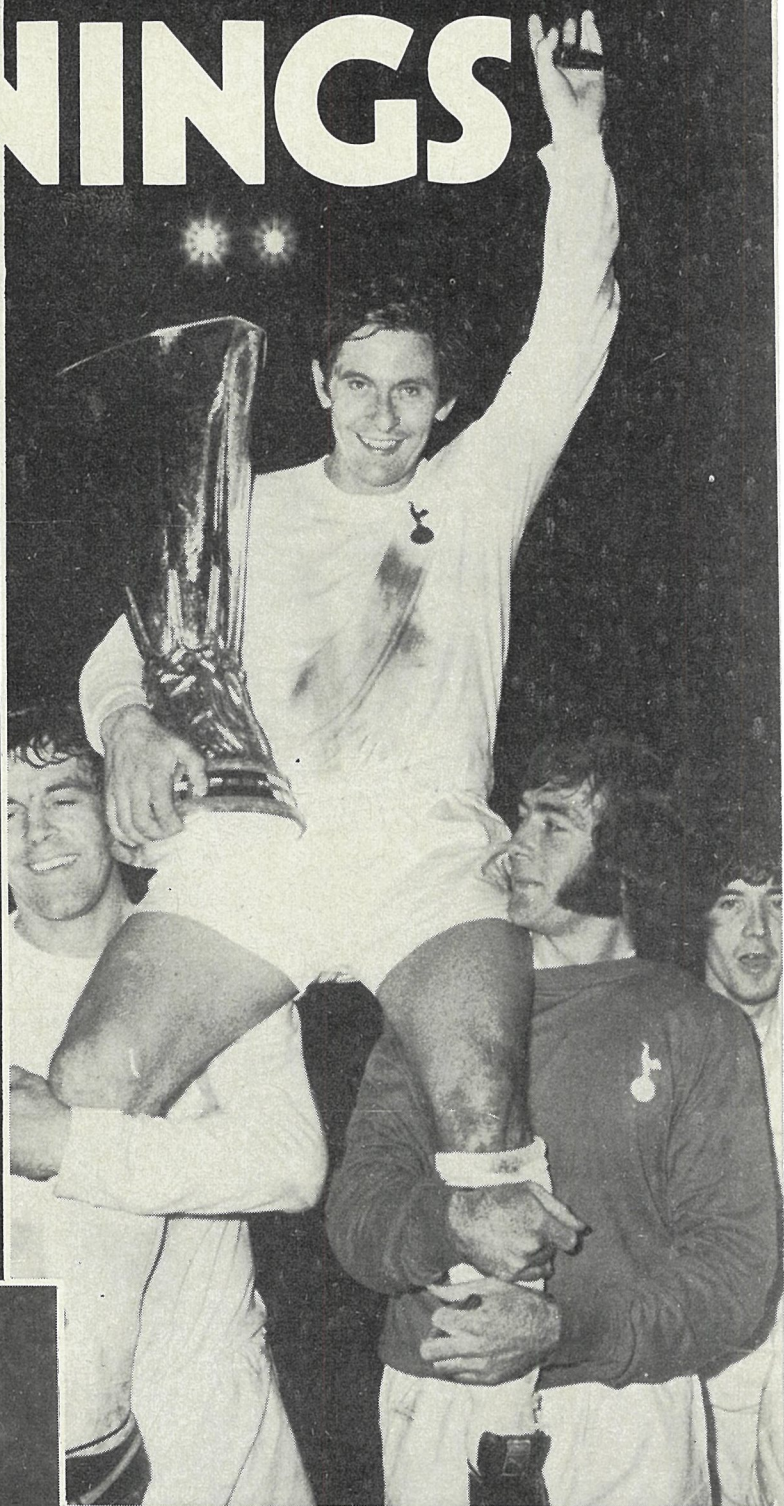
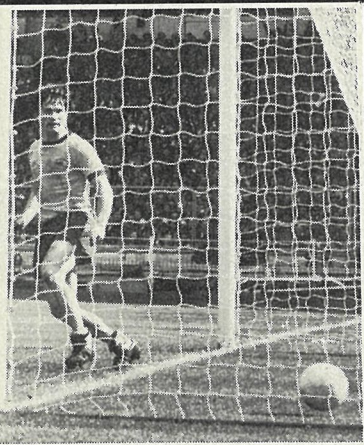
In 1973 they once more triumphed in the League Cup, beating Norwich 1-0 (above). Following his shock transfer to Arsenal in 1977, he began a run of three consecutive F.A. Cup Finals. A 1-0 defeat by Ipswich (above, right); a 3-2 success v. Manchester United (below, left); and a surprise 1-0 defeat by West Ham (below).



PAT JENNINGS

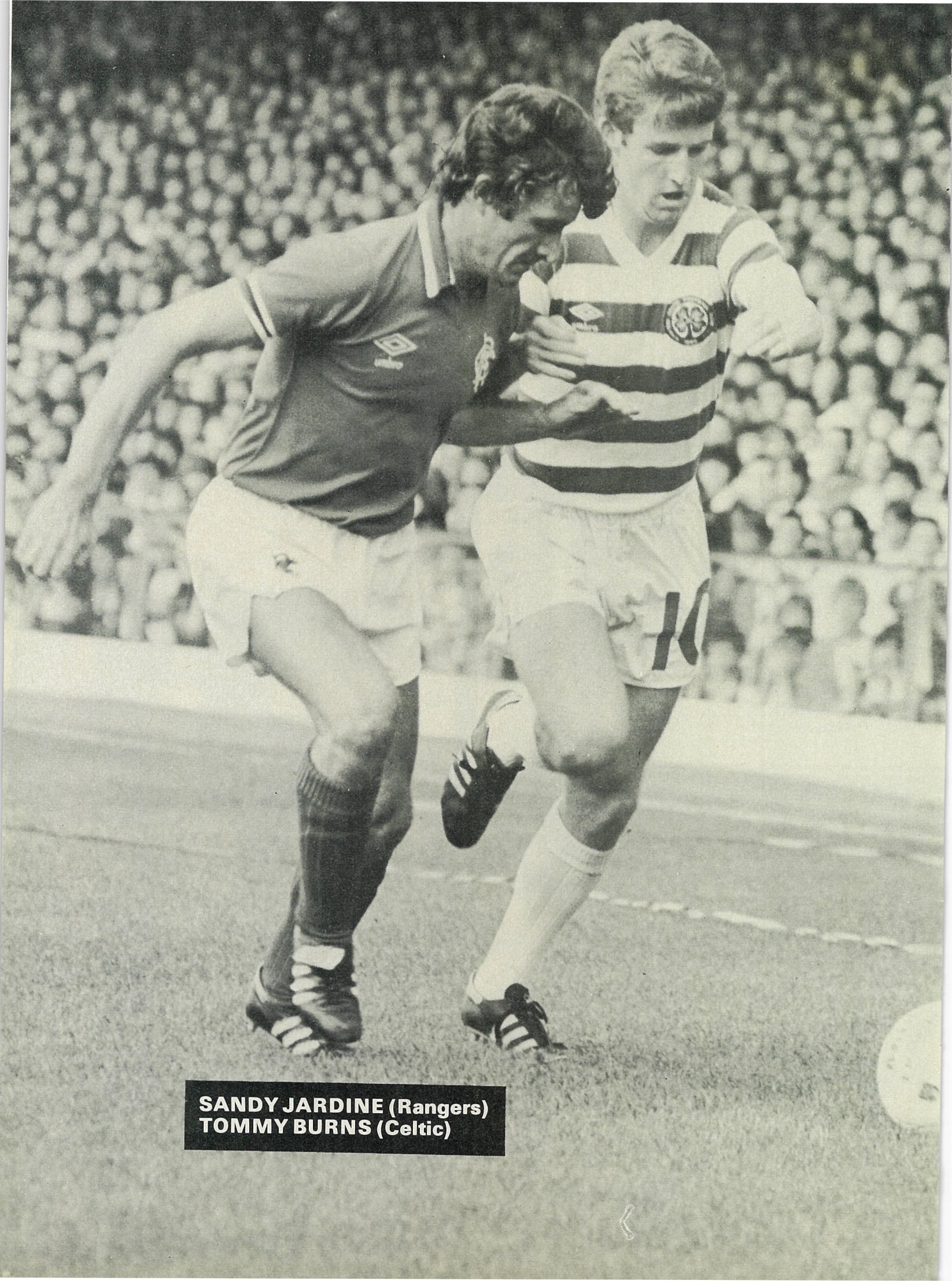


Four years later, Jennings returned to Wembley for the 1971 League Cup Final. Tottenham emerging 2-0 winners against Third Division Aston Villa (above). The following season they captured the UEFA Cup (right).



Arsenal reached the 1980 European Cup-Winners' Cup Final where they played Valencia of Spain. After 90 minutes, plus 30 in extra-time, the game went to penalties. Alas for Jennings and The Gunners, the Spanish side won 5-4 (left). Pat has always been known for his spectacular saves like this one against West Brom (below).





SANDY JARDINE (Rangers)
TOMMY BURNS (Celtic)



CAUTIOUS CHARLTON

CHARLTON skipper Dick Tydeman provides one of the most honest and realistic assessments, ever known, of a race for the Third Division promotion places.

Charlton, relegated just last May, started the New Year as clear favourites to go straight back to the Second Division.

Yet Tydeman apparently wasn't fooled by the simple facts and figures. He said boldly: "We've got as good a chance of going up as any other of 15 sides in the Third Division.

"I don't believe we are so much better than any other side. Sure, we've improved and have all worked hard under Mike Bailey to put things right.

"But we still have a long way to go. After all, we spent most of the past two years losing matches and it takes time getting that sort of spell out of your system.

"The difference is that we got used to winning, rather than being used to losing. Last season was a nightmare and it was lovely to go on a long run without defeat this season.

"But we need the entire season to get completely over that traumatic experience of the last two years and 15 matches without a defeat isn't long enough."

Tydeman says Charlton are a good, hard working side. But he believes one of the main reasons for the success in the first half of the season, was the goalscoring abilities of three men — Derek Hales, Paul Walsh and Phil Walker.

"Those three, plus two or three others, were scoring goals pretty regularly and it made a colossal difference," said Tydeman.

"I rate Hales and Walsh as the best front-line pairing in the Third Division this season, and they're one of the major reasons why we started so well.

"In addition, the defence worked hard to tighten up at the back and everyone got down to some solid graft. But we're honestly not that brilliant — not yet anyway!

"We're capable of improving a lot and we will do if we keep working hard. We're definitely not a bad side and certainly sharper than anyone else in the penalty-area.

Goals from Derek Hales, such as the winner at Gillingham (above) have helped to keep Charlton skipper Dick Tydeman (below) a happy man.



Nevertheless, Charlton fans were pleased enough with the improvement and manager Mike Bailey must also have been quite satisfied.

But Bailey refuses to even discuss promotion prospects, saying: "Come to me a week before the end of the season. If we're five points clear of anyone then, I'll start to get excited. But with so long left, anything could happen."

Such caution is well founded at The Valley. It's not long ago that Charlton reached Christmas top of the Second Division table — and then only escaped relegation by goal difference in May. Like they say, the English League season is a marathon, not a sprint!

LUTON Town fans breathed a sigh of relief towards the end of October as top scorer David Moss regained the touch that had put them amongst the promotion favourites last season.

The goalscoring winger had been troubled by illness, form and the poor run of a team which suffered a hangover after last season's near miss, but when he came back among the goals it all started to look much brighter.

On the opening day of the season The Hatters' dead ball expert banged in two penalties at West Ham to make Luton the only visiting side to grab both points up to the end of February.

But not until he grabbed a beautifully struck quite typical Mossie Special against Swansea on October 21 did the popular forward score another League goal.

Then in a run of four games he scored five times: once at home to Swansea, once away to Cambridge, twice at home to Sheffield Wednesday and once again away to QPR. It was a remarkable change of luck.

Moss himself understood quite clearly why things had not gone well for either him or the team during the early part of the season after they had been made a good bet for one of the final promotion spots.

He said: "I had a really bad attack of shingles which affected



Moss likes television

my form badly early in the season. I felt very down in the pre-season training and couldn't understand it. I did all the things I could think of to find out what it was, but it was not until the spots came out that I realised and found out.

"Now I feel much better in myself and my form has picked up a lot. It is not all to do with me though because the team has improved a lot too lately. I think we are going to play better now and we could come late onto the promotion campaign, nine from did last year."

Last season David Moss scored 23 League goals in The Hatters' promotion campaign, nine from the penalty-spot — a job for which he has earned quite a reputation. He has also become well-known for his television spectaculars, the goals he chips over helpless 'keepers from outside the penalty-area.

He said: "Yes, I always seem to do well for the cameras, especially the BBC. It is one of those funny things. The sort of goals I score like that could easily go over the roof. And you know I hardly ever practise free-kicks at all, it is just a thing I manage to do in games."

With The Hatters introducing more young talent into their already youthful side the size of the first team squad at Kenilworth Road is growing, a fact not lost on Moss, one of the senior pro's at the club following the departure of

Bob Hatton to Sheffield United.

He said: "Yes, I think we have a much bigger and stronger squad this year with up to 18 players competing for places. Players like Clive Goodyear have been given a chance and come in and done very well.

"We are not frightened of anyone. In fact we like to play against the better sides because we like to play football against anyone. We will be back up there soon.

"Last season we missed out by dropping home points and cracking up when the big crunch pressure games came along. I think we have got more experience now.

"I suppose we did miss Bob Hatton up front and it has taken us a while to readjust. Steve White who has come in has really deserved to do so well. He likes running on to the ball and we have got something different.

"It is good to see him doing so well because it is very difficult for players to fit into new teams. And we had a terrific understanding with Bob up front. He was so experienced; he had the role of a striker off to a fine art.

"But we are improving again now and I can see us doing well. We are on the way back. Sunderland went up with a late run last year and we are hoping we could do something like that this season."

Top 20 Quiz

1. After just 56 days, Crystal Palace parted company with manager Malcolm Allison. He was replaced by Wimbledon boss Dario Gradi. Was Gradi formerly assistant-manager at Derby County, Doncaster Rovers or Darlington?

2. Can you name the Exeter City striker who scored a hat-trick in an F.A. Cup Fourth Round replay that knocked First Division Leicester City out of the competition?

3. As a player he starred for Arsenal, Nottingham Forest and Sheffield United. He then took over at Peterborough before becoming boss of a First Division club... can you identify him from our negative below?



8. Did John Wark (above) score two, three or four of Ipswich's five goals in their 5-1 win against Aris Solonika in the U.E.F.A. Cup First Round, first-leg game at Portman Road?

9. Which Bulgarian side eliminated holders Nottingham Forest from this season's European Cup competition on a 2-0 aggregate score?

10. Jimmy Greenhoff was transferred during this season from Manchester United to which Fourth Division club for a nominal fee?

11. Another player on the move was Bristol City's Tom Ritchie. Which First Division club did he join for £200,000?

12. Former England World Cup star, Martin Peters was appointed manager of Sheffield United during 1980-81. As a player he starred for three other League clubs... can you name them?

13. Is it true that Johan Cruyff was voted European Footballer of the Year on three occasions?

14. Which Scottish clubs play at (a) Broomfield Park, (b) Muirton Park, (c) Firs Park and (d) Rugby Park?

15. Where did Everton's England international striker Bob Latchford (below) begin his League career?



16. Can you name the Leicester striker who scored their winner in a sensational 2-1 victory against Liverpool at Anfield this season?

17. Peter Madden is manager of which Fourth Division club?

18. Which Welsh club did remarkably well and reached the Quarter-Finals of the European Cup-Winners' Cup this season?

19. Malcolm Macdonald finished the 1974-75 season as the First Division's leading League scorer with 21 goals. Was he playing for Newcastle United or Arsenal at the time?

20. Are Clyde, Clydebank or Cowdenbeath nicknamed The Bully Wee?



4. Rearrange the jumbled letters to find the name of a top Scottish Premier Division striker and his club... RCEAIHLHNSIALOC (TCCILE).

5. What is wrong with this statement? "Willie Young of Arsenal is a full Scotland international player..."

6. Nottingham Forest lost 1-0 to Nacional in the World Club Championship Cup in Tokyo. From which country do Nacional come?

7. If the 1979-80 Fourth Division Champions entertained the 1978-79 Scottish First Division title winners... which two clubs would be in opposition?

ANSWERS:

1. Derby County. 2. Tony Kellow. 3. Wolves boss John Barnwell. 4. Charlie Nicholas (Celtic). 5. He is not a full international. 6. Uruguay. 7. Huddersfield and Dundee. 8. Four. 9. CSKA Sofia. 10. Crewe. 11. Sunderland. 12. West Ham, Spurs and Norwich. 13. Yes. 14. (a) Airdrie (b) St Johnstone. (c) East Stirling. 17. Rochdale. 18. Newport County. 19. Newcastle United. 20. Clyde.

GO FOR THE DOUBLE ANSWERS

ACROSS:— (2) Opals. (4) Roker Park (Sunderland). (8) Lato. (9) Avid. (11) Angle. (14) Bayern. (15) Winger. (16) Doyle. (19) Ache. (20) Form. (21) Macdonald. (25) Walsh.

DOWN:— (1) Carr. (2) Oak. (3) Sea. (4) Rotherham. (5) Even. (6) Paul. (7) Kevin Bond. (8) Llama. (10) Dream. (11) And. (12) Guy. (13) Ewe (4th letters). (17) Owed. (18) Lion. (22) Cow. (23) Owls. (24) Ash.

COMPUTER PUZZLE ANSWERS

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Alloa Athletic | 4. October |
| 2. Blackpool and Coventry | 5. Midfield |
| 3. Seventeen | 6. 1974 |

THE name may be as Irish as they come but Eamonn O'Keefe has been just about everywhere but the Emerald Isle to put himself on the map.

Now at the age of 27, Eamonn is suddenly developing a taste for the good life as he establishes himself in the First Division with Everton.

When Bob Latchford lost his early season scoring touch, Gordon Lee turned to O'Keefe and the equally romantically named Imre Varadi to keep the goals coming.

And yet it's not so long ago that O'Keefe thought his chance had gone.

Just 20 months ago he was working as a van driver for the evening paper in his home town of Manchester.

The little Pennine club which nestles at the top of a hill in a corner of Lancashire surrounded by Cheshire, Derbyshire and Yorkshire proved the perfect setting for O'Keefe's skills.

Manager Bob Murphy pulled a master stroke by asking Eamonn to play up front.

In an incredible spell the season before last O'Keefe notched 34 goals in as many matches and was an obvious target for League clubs.

"It really was amazing. Everything just seemed to go right in that period, and whenever a chance came along the ball ended up in the net going in off just every conceivable part of my anatomy. I don't suppose I'll ever enjoy such a lucky spell again."

O'KEEFE

destined for the big time

This after chances with a number of clubs had been well and truly blown.

Eamonn was unlucky when after a promising schoolboy career he broke a leg and was out of the game for a full two years.

On recovery he played for Cheshire League club Stalybridge Celtic and very quickly came to the attention of Malcolm Allison, then in charge of Plymouth Argyle.

Ironically it was Malcolm's son David who had inadvertently been involved in the incident which led to Eamonn breaking his leg.

Plymouth paid £3,500 for O'Keefe but the move didn't work out.

O'Keefe admits "I was a bit of an idiot. Starry-eyed, I suppose I thought I'd made it and my attitude was all wrong. So wrong they told me I could go.

"It was back to Manchester, where I signed for Hyde United. That may not seem a big step but it was about to lead to one.

"It must have been destiny. The manager there at the time was George Smith, but he left soon after to go to Saudi Arabia.

"Before he went he asked me if I fancied playing out in the land of the sun, sand and sheikhs. I said yes, probably without thinking that he really meant it, but anyway I decided to go.

"It must be the worst thing I ever did in my life.

"I still can't believe some of the things that went on out there. It was unreal, and, to be honest, I couldn't get back to Britain quickly enough. There really is no place like home."

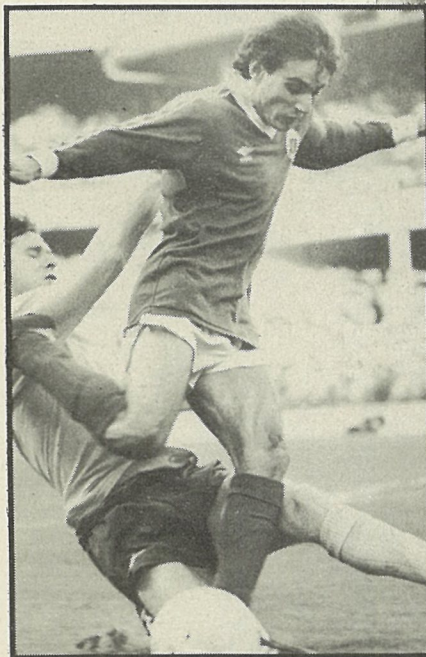
Eamonn was so desperate to get out of Saudi he actually broke his contract and just walked out on the club.

Yet again it was back to the Manchester area and non-League circles with Mossley.

Everton won the chase for O'Keefe and they've broken him in gently. Three games last season were followed by numerous substitute appearances before he ultimately got into the side in his own right a couple of months ago.


O'Keefe has scored timely goals against Sunderland and Birmingham, goals that earned The Toffeemen three points.

Older and wiser, he doesn't intend to blow his chance this time.



Right: Eamonn celebrates another goal for Everton. Above: Imre Varadi has also established himself at Goodison this season.





COLOURED players have exploded on to the English football scene during the last three seasons. Names such as Fashanu, Connor, Crooks, Regis and Blissett regularly appear in the goalscoring lists. Most League matches these days feature at least one black footballer and more and more of their number have been forcing their attentions on England boss Ron Greenwood.

November 29th, 1978 was an historic day for English football. On that evening Viv Anderson pulled on a white shirt and ran out to face Czechoslovakia at Wembley, thus becoming the first black player to represent England at full international level.

Anderson had recovered from a bad start to his career, he was rejected by Manchester United at the age of 16 but joined Nottingham Forest in 1975 and has played a major role in his club's accumulation of five honours in the last three seasons.

A successful England 'B' tour of the Far East in the summer of 1978 had the 'Extension', so called because of the large range of his long legs in the tackle and his overlapping runs, knocking on the first team door.

Laurie Cunningham followed



BLACK

Anderson into the England team six months later when he played in the 0-0 Home International Championship draw with Wales in May, 1979. Eighteen days later both Anderson and Cunningham turned out for England in Stockholm to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Swedish FA and Cunningham also came on as substitute in the thrilling 3-4 defeat in Austria. Each has made more England appearances in the last season and a half.

WBA's Cyrille Regis (left) and Garth Crooks of Spurs (above) have caused problems for the First Division defences

London-born Cunningham started with Orient before being transferred to WBA in March, 1977 for £110,000. Just over two years later his value had increased nine-fold when he was sold to Real Madrid for a little under a million pounds.

Cunningham is one of a quartet to have made their names with WBA. His erstwhile colleague was Cyrille Regis who, although born in French Guyana, chose to become eligible for England rather than France.

This huge striker was bought by the Midlanders from Isthmian League Hayes for £5,000 in May, 1977, crashed in two goals on his debut against Rotherham in the League Cup and finished his first season with 18 to his name, which helped Albion to sixth position in the League and an FA Cup Semi-Final and Regis to England intermediate honours.

Another bargain buy for WBA was the capture of Brendon Batson for £30,000 from Cambridge United, for whom he had made 163 appearances, in February, 1978. The Grenada-born full-back had started his career with Arsenal and has recently been selected for the England 'B' side.

The latest product of the Hawthorns stable is Remi Moses, who has just made his England Under-21 debut.

Immediately Laurie Cunningham departed from Orient, The O's had a ready made replacement in Nigerian winger John Chiedozie, whose parents had fled the Biafran war and settled in Forest Gate, close to the West Ham ground. Chiedozie made his debut in March, 1977, the month Cunningham left, and signed professional forms on his 17th birthday a few weeks later. He is now a firm favourite at Brisbane Rd.

Nobody who saw it will ever forget Justin Fashanu's tremendous volley which brought a magnificent goal against Liverpool last season. The powerful 6' 1" former schoolboy boxer turned professional on Christmas Day 1978, made his Norwich debut early in the next year and scored his first goal two months later. Born in the East End, Fashanu made his way to East Anglia via a Dr. Barnardo Home and the care of a Norfolk family. He has been capped both at 'B' and Under-21 level.

Another six-footer to hit the headlines is Bob Hazell who, in March, 1977, became the first



Viv Anderson (above) became the first player to gain a full England cap. He has since been joined by Laurie Cunningham (below, right), while Crystal Palace winger Vince Hilaire (right) has gained recognition at Under-21 level.



Wales in February, 1979. Like Hazell, Blissett was born in Jamaica and forms a formidable strike force for his club with Ross Jenkins.

Vince Hilaire's signing by Crystal Palace in October, 1976 was featured in a television documentary about professional football. Since then the mazy dribbles of the slightly built winger, born in London of Dominican parents, have brought Under-21 international recognition and helped The Eagles into the First Division.

Two coloured players made spectacular starts for their clubs. Terry Connor got the winner with his first goal for Leeds — against WBA in November, 1979 — and has scored some notable goals since then. Garry Thompson has been regularly finding the net for Coventry in his first season of 1978-79 before breaking his leg in mid-term. Fortunately, he is recovering his good form.

Several other black players, such as Roger Palmer and David Bennett of Manchester City, Ricky Hill, Brian Stein, Phil Walker and Tristran Benjamin have made their mark and it is certain that many more will do so in the future, both for club and country.

MAGIC

coloured player to appear for the England Youth side. He scored the only goal in his debut against Wales and played his first League match for Wolves at the end of that year. In September, 1979 he joined QPR for £240,000 and has worn the England Under-21 jersey.

Another black player involved in a big transfer deal was Garth Crooks. Spurs bought him last July hoping that, with Steve Archibald, he could reproduce the kind of form which had brought him 46 goals in three years for his home town club of Stoke and a hat-trick in his first international appearance — the Under-21 match against Bulgaria, (thus emulating the performances of Peter Ward and Tony Woodcock,

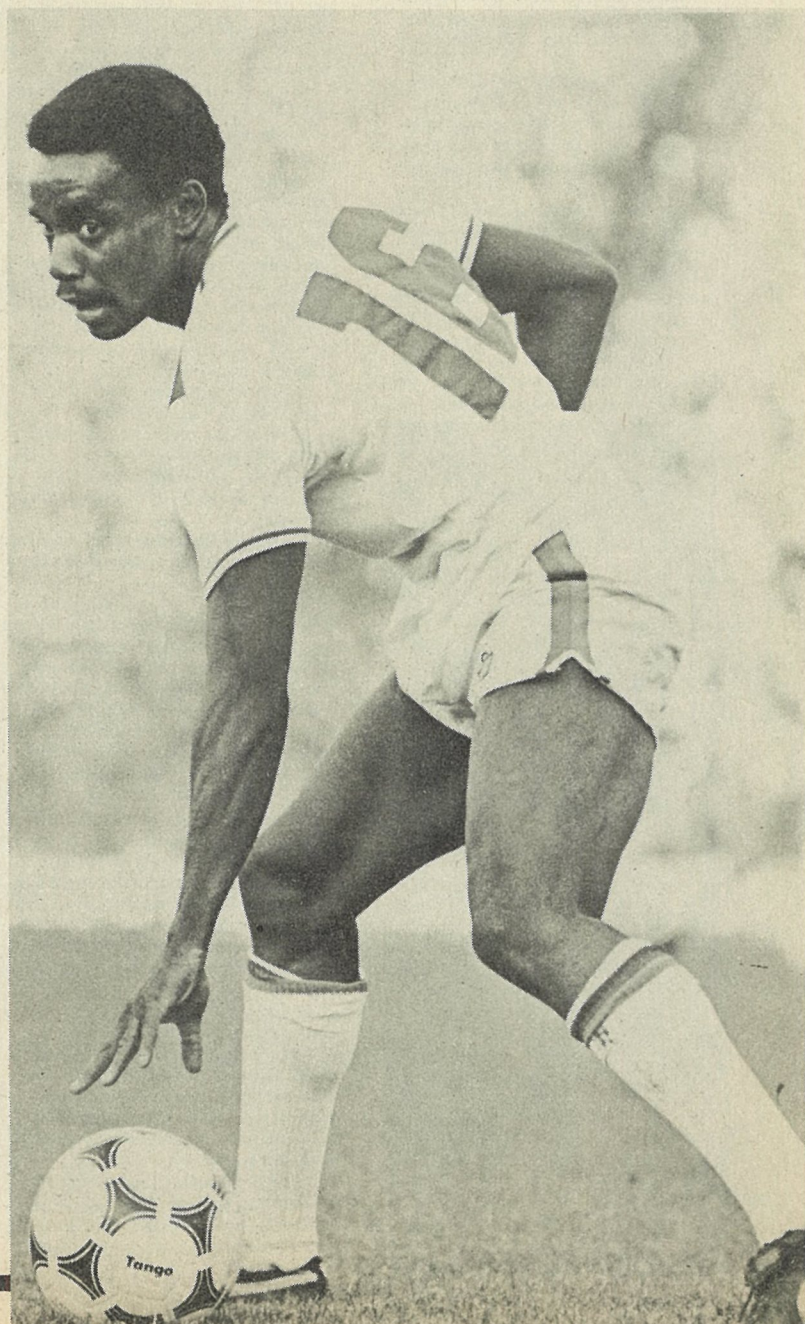
who had also scored three in an Under 21 game), in November, 1979.

The other black players to have gained full international honours, apart from Anderson and Cunningham, are Wolves' George Berry who, because of a Welsh mother, was eligible to play for the Principality and made his bow against West Germany in May, 1979, and young Chris Hughton of Spurs, who is now an Eire regular. Berry did not make the grade at Ipswich so went to Molineux in December, 1975.

Luther Blissett's 28 goals helped Watford to promotion and the Semi-Finals of the League Cup in 1978-79 and himself to gain England Under-21 honours against



Justin Fashanu, the powerful Norwich striker who once looked set for a career in boxing, heads towards the Arsenal goal.



JIMMY NEIGHBOUR & STUART PEARSON

still aiming to be hits for the Hammers

WEST HAM manager, John Lyall, made three sorties into the transfer market at the beginning of last season, in a bid to strengthen his side for a concerted push for promotion.

But in all honesty, of the three, only £400,000 Scot Ray Stewart fully justified the money Lyall paid for him. The other two, Stuart Pearson, who cost £200,000 from Manchester United, and Jimmy Neighbour, a £140,000 buy from Norwich City, struggled to find the form and consistency their new manager had hoped for.

Now, having failed narrowly last season, The Hammers are almost certain to go up this term. And both Neighbour and Pearson are in determined mood to show that they really *can* do the business they were bought for.

In fact, Neighbour has already impressed a great many people with his return to first team duty this season.

"No one knows better than me that last season I was nowhere near doing myself justice," says Jimmy, who scored the goal that sent West Ham into the League Cup final.

"It was a combination of several things really. First of all I seemed to pick up a series of niggling injuries. Nothing particularly serious. But when they came one on top of the other, it's bound to have an effect on your game.

"Then there was the fact that I was still living in the Norwich area, and so I was having to travel



Manager John Lyall

backwards and forwards quite a lot. That didn't help either. The crowd began to get on my back, too. Which they were entitled to do, of course, because I wasn't providing the kind of performance that had been expected of me.

"As a result I dropped out of the side — and the real sickener there was missing out on the F.A. Cup Final at Wembley."

Neighbour started the current campaign still out of the side, and acknowledges the fact that initially he only got back in because of injuries to people like Trevor Brooking and Pat Holland.

But having been presented with the opportunity of a second chance, he's been determined to grab it with both hands.

"I certainly feel much happier with myself," says Jimmy. "I'm moving house, which means I'll cut out all the long distance travelling, and at last I feel I've come to terms with the way West Ham play.

"In fact, right now I reckon I'm playing as well as I have done for a couple of years."

Anyone who's seen Neighbour this season will second that. By his own admission he's never been a tackler or runner. Yet it is exactly those qualities which have been so evident in his game. Whereas in the past, if his skills haven't been working for him out on the wing, and the ball has been running against him, he'd just fade completely. Now he's looking and fighting for the ball.

"I've worked hard on what I considered the inconsistencies in my game," explains Jimmy. "And I think it's started to pay off. Now, what I'm looking for is a good run in the first team to really establish myself."

Manager John Lyall is obviously delighted with the situation.

"There's nothing our crowd enjoy more than to see an old fashioned winger taking on and beating defences. That's what Jimmy's been doing to great effect since I brought him back.

"Jimmy's an individual, and has taken time to fit in. But he's come to terms with the situation himself, and at last things are beginning to turn for him."

UNLIKE his team-mate, as yet Stuart Pearson hasn't really had the benefit of a second chance to show his true worth.

The former Manchester United and England striker has missed most of the season recovering from his fourth cartilage operation on the same, troublesome left knee, that has plagued his career over the past few years.

But he's confident that when he *does* get back into action, he'll be better than ever.

"The Upton Park fans have never seen me at my best, simply because I've never been 100 per cent fit since I came to the club," said Stuart.

"With this latest operation, it means that I'm left without a single cartilage in my left knee.

There are no signs of arthritis setting in, which I believe can happen in cases like this, so I'm confident that once I built up all the muscle wastage, I shouldn't have any more problems with it.

"I saw the specialist the other day, who was very pleased with the progress I was making, and he gave me the all clear to start lifting heavier weights than the ones I'd been working with. He also said I would be able to start some gentle jogging round the track.

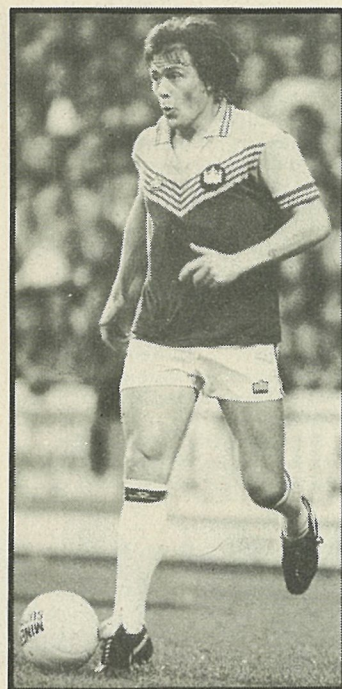
Sprinting

"There's still a little bit of fluid on the knee. But it shouldn't take long to disperse now. When that's gone, I'll tackle some sprinting, and gradually build up my training programme from there, until I can join the rest of the lads again.

"Then I'll be looking to get back to match fitness with the reserves, and hopefully, win my place back in the first team after that."

Stuart's reluctant to set himself any target date for a return. Having been in a similar position before, he knows how demoralising it is to build up your hopes to come back at a certain time, only to have them dashed by one thing or another.

"The recovery period has been a lot longer this time compared to my previous operations, because I had to have no fewer than four incisions round my knee. But the thing that's kept me going is the knowledge that when I *do* get back, at least I should be in the position to show the fans that the £200,000 the club spent on me wasn't wasted.



"The lads are going great guns at the moment, and if they maintain the kind of form they've shown so far, then I'll be fighting for my place in the side."

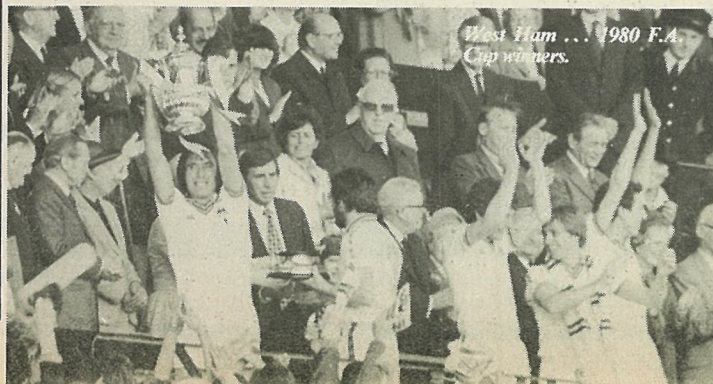
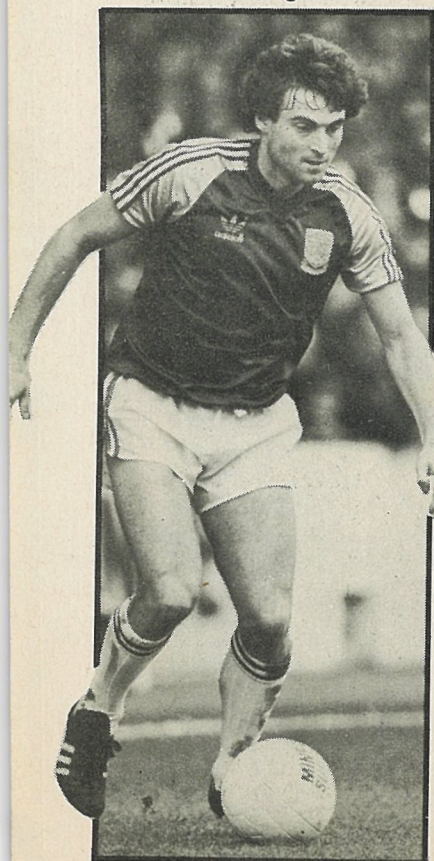
Pearson's last game for the Hammers was at Wembley, in their memorable F.A. Cup Final victory over Arsenal. It saw him operating in an uncharacteristic, deep-lying midfield role. A piece of inspired, tactical thinking by manager John Lyall, which totally confused the Arsenal defence, and many people thought was instrumental in their downfall.

Could we perhaps see Stuart, when he does return, performing in a similar sort of role?

"That's really up to the boss," Stuart told us. "But I did enjoy playing in midfield. It presented a brand new challenge for me, and I'd like to think that I could do a worthwhile job for the side, if I was asked to play there again.

"Certainly, David Cross and Paul Goddard have struck up a terrific understanding up front, so obviously it wouldn't be logical to upset that.

"But to tell you the truth, right now I'd just be happy to get back into the side in ANY position."



JUST a year ago, it looked like the time had come for Aston Villa centre-half Ken McNought to pack his bags and move on.

One Saturday night around Christmas he had arrived home to find his wife in tears — over reader's letters in the local paper demanding that he be dropped.

A letter or two doesn't make a hard Scot like McNought feel like quitting. Or for that matter a few tears from his wife. But those letters seemed to be the straw that broke the camel's back.

For McNought had been the centre of a two-year barrage by

pressure on defenders to keep clean sheets."

McNought's big break came when he was dropped last season. Reserve Brendan Omsby took over — but was sent off against Wolves incurring an automatic one-match ban — and that short break did wonders for McNought.

He explains: "I decided to make one last go of it. To go out and show everybody that I was worth my place. And I also decided to stick to one job. Before I had been trying to cover too much ground, and cover for other people. That way I kept falling between two

WHEN VILLA FANS MADE McNAUGHT'S WIFE CRY

Villa fans convinced the £250,000 buy from Everton was not the man for the job.

Now McNought can look back not in anger but amusement. Aston Villa are now finally living up to their Championship potential — and the 24-year-old defender is very much accepted as part of the scenery having developed a formidable partnership with fellow Scot Allan Evans.

McNought looks back on those dark, dismal days and says: "The fans really got on my back. I used to get upset and so did my wife. But I always believed I could fight my way through and gain acceptance.

"To be honest the supporters were often right. I took a long time to get settled at Villa — though the fans were quick to have a go. So I tried harder and harder — and things just got worse.

"I always believed in my own ability, but for a long time nothing seemed to go right. The whole team struggled — usually because of injuries — we weren't scoring goals so there was even more

stools.

"So I concentrated on my own job — and slowly but surely it all began to come right. Now I love it at Villa, especially as we are going so well in the First Division."

The big question on everyone's lips is whether Villa can maintain their impressive drive to stop the title going to Anfield for the third season in a row.

All-for-one

Determined McNought is under no illusions about the difficulty of that task. But he insists: "There is a confidence in our side, and a one-for-all spirit — just like Liverpool. We have learned to keep going, even when things are against us. That's what we did in that difficult run just before Christmas.

"We kept our nerve then, and I think it proved to all of us that we have the strength of will as well as the skill to win the title. But nobody is counting chickens at Villa Park. Our brief is to keep grinding away."



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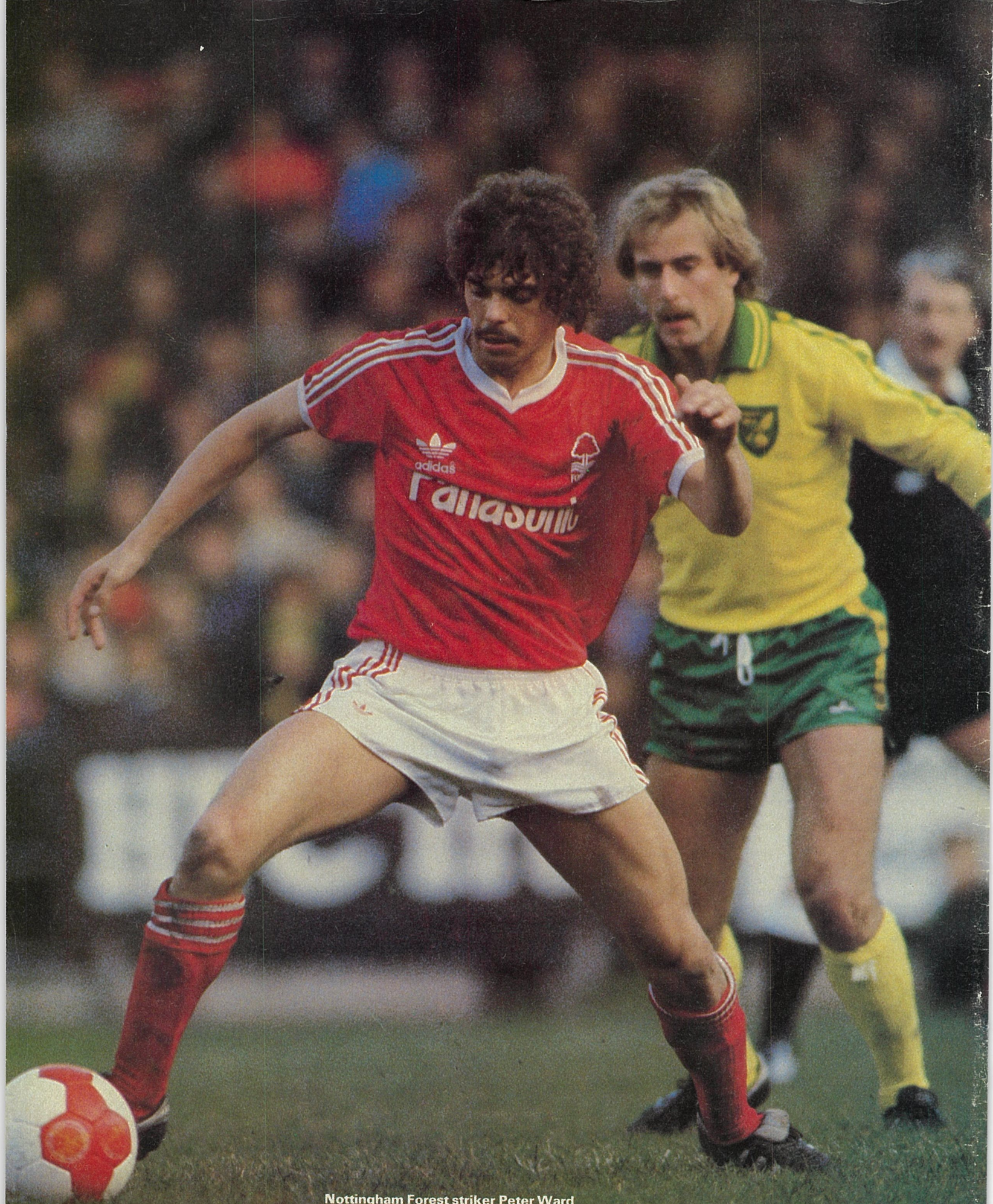
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Nottingham Forest striker Peter Ward shields the ball from Graham Paddon of Norwich.